



## (U) CTS Horizon Report 05 July 2018

**(U//FOUO) Note:** The Counterterrorism Section ("CTS") Horizon Report is an open source U//FOUO daily intelligence publication tailored specifically to the needs of its principal reader. The brief is based on preliminary reporting, some of which has been derived from media outlets. Reporting of this nature is often inaccurate and subject to change as the situation continues to unfold. The principal will be made aware of any known threats to Chicago, on a need to know and right to know basis.

### (U//FOUO) Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

**(U//FOUO)** CTS has no information to indicate that a specific, credible threat exists to Chicago, at this time, but based on the current threat environment CPIC/CTS will continue to monitor emerging intelligence.

### (U//FOUO) Current Threat Environment

**(U//FOUO) Foreign terrorist organizations**—such as al-Qa’ida, the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham, and their affiliates remain intent on attacking Western targets and continue to call on individuals to conduct independent attacks in the United States using a variety of weapons and tactics including arson, vehicle ramming, edged weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and the use of small arms. Recent plots and attacks demonstrate the continued and growing interest by foreign terrorist organizations and other violent extremists in targeting mass gathering events. To date, these attacks have focused primarily on soft targets, such as tourist destinations, sporting events, music venues, shopping districts, and mass-transportation systems.

**(U//FOUO) US-based HVEs**—possibly encouraged by violent extremist messaging encouraging further attacks, media attention, and perceived success of recent incidents—may also be inspired to act during the holidays and opportunities such as a convention to access large crowds. HVEs and small groups of individuals are of particular concern due to their ability to remain undetected until operational, their willingness to attack civilians and soft targets, and their ability to inflict significant casualties with weapons that do not require specialized knowledge, access, or training.

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(U//FOUO) Local Suspicious Activity Reporting (SARs)

(U//FOUO) NSTR

(U) CT Watch Overnight News

CONUS

1. Cleveland terrorist arrest a reminder of how much we owe undercover intelligence operatives [Cleveland Plain Dealer – Editorial Board]

- The Cleveland Fourth of July terrorist plot that FBI agents say they've thwarted in arresting and charging a Maple Heights man with attempted material support for al-Qaida is just one of a long string of terrorist plots that federal agents say they've foiled since 9/11.
- It's a reminder of how much Americans owe covert intelligence for avoiding a repeat of that terrible September day when al-Qaida operatives delivered mass murder from the air.
- And it should give us all pause on this 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to give thanks to those who sacrifice so much to keep us free and safe.
- No doubt the foiled plots we've heard about are a small percentage of the ones that remain undisclosed for intelligence reasons.

OCONUS

1. Uzbek Court Fines Uzbek-Born U.S. Citizen Over Militant Links [RFE/RFL – embedded photo]

- A provincial court in Uzbekistan has convicted an Uzbek-born U.S. citizen of links to a militant group and calling for the overthrow of the government but imposed only a \$67 fine for the offenses committed almost two decades ago.
- Zokir Aliev, 46, was detained on June 16 on suspicion of joining a terrorist group and fighting alongside Islamist insurgents in Afghanistan . . . .
- . . . the court convicted Aliev of publicly calling for the toppling of the government and participating in an extremist group . . . [and] court imposed the small fine based on a multiple of the official [1999] minimum wage when the offense occurred.
- This updates [July 4 court proceedings] a prior ONN article

2. Amesbury [UK] poisoning: Couple exposed to Novichok nerve agent [BBC]

- A man and woman found unconscious in Wiltshire were exposed to Novichok - the same nerve agent that poisoned ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal, police say.
- The couple . . . fell ill at a house in Amesbury on Saturday and remain in a critical condition.
- Police say no one else has presented with the same symptoms. There was "nothing in their background" to suggest the pair were targeted, the Met Police said.
- The Counter Terrorism Policing Network is now leading the investigation, working with Wiltshire Police.

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- The BBC's security correspondent Gordon Corera said: "The most likely hypothesis is that this is leftover Novichok from the attack on the Skripals back in March."
- Chemical weapons expert Richard Guthrie said it was possible that the Novichok which poisoned the Skripals may have been disposed of "in a haphazard way".

### 3. [Iraq claims Russia killed IS leader's son](#) [Al Araby – UK]

- Iraqi intelligence claimed on Wednesday that the son of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed by Russian forces in a missile attack on a Syrian cave where he was hiding.
- IS announced Tuesday evening the death of one of the sons of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, after he reportedly took part in a suicide bomb attack, against regime troops in rural Syria . . . .
- IS' media outlet confirmed that Hudeifa al-Badri, the son of Baghdadi, was killed on Monday during an "inghimasi operation" - a "shock" commando attack using suicide bombers - against Syrian regime and Russian troops in rural Homs.
- Iraq's Falcon's intelligence cell claimed that Russian forces on Monday fired three missiles at a cave in Homs that held 30 "terrorist leaders" and several of Badri's bodyguards. It added 11 people were killed in the attack.
- "Badri wasn't even a fighter... he was an icon that was moved from one place to another as a form of psychological propaganda for the rest of the organisation," the Falcons said.
- This updates July 4 ONN OCONUS 6

### 4. ['Dangerous' Islamic State leader killed by Iraqi troops, southwest of Kirkuk](#) [Iraqi News]

- Federal Police have killed a dangerous Islamic State member [Shehab Ahmed al-Sallab] in southwest of Kirkuk, a security source said on Wednesday.
- Also from Iraqi News: A senior Islamic State member was killed, along with three of his companions in an airstrike by the U.S.-led Coalition, west of Anbar . . . .
- Preliminary information . . . indicated that "the hideout targeted by the airstrike was used by the group to hide and try to escape to Syria." [Senior Arab Islamic State leader, 3 others, killed in Coalition airstrike, west of Anbar](#)
- From Baghdad Post: A top ISIS commander has been killed in Anbar . . [by] . . . the US-led coalition [in] an ISIS vehicle . . . between Kilo 160 and the district of al-Nakhib . . . [Top ISIS leader killed in Anbar](#)

### 5. [Egypt's top appeals court overturns 'terror list' ruling on Morsi](#) [Al Jazeera]

- Egypt's top appeals court has overturned a verdict that placed more than 1,500 people on a national terror list, including the country's former democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi, who was deposed in 2013.
- The Court of Cassation returned the case back to a lower court for reconsideration, local media reported on Wednesday.
- The latest move was in response to a number of appeal cases filed by defendants, many of whom belong to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood organisation.
- Among those who appealed is retired football star Mohamed Aboutrika, who was first placed on the list last year . . . an allegation he denied.

### 6. [Yemen's Houthis highlight new underground missile launchers](#) [Long War Journal – embedded image]

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- In a new video highlighting a recent ballistic missile launch directed at an airport in southern Saudi Arabia, Yemen's Houthi rebels also unveiled . . . its underground missile launchers.
- The video showcased a Badr-1 ballistic missile reportedly fired at an airport in Khamis Mushayt from an underground launcher.
- Saba, a website linked to the Houthis, reported that the underground launchers "cannot be targeted by Saudi-led coalition's warplanes."
- Additionally, the video was released just after the militant group announced . . . that its ballistic missile program "will see more robust and efficient development in the coming period."

### **7. Haftar conditions opening oil terminals to replacing Libya's central bank governor [Libyan Express]**

- Libyan . . . warlord . . . Khalifa Haftar said . . . oil terminals will be reopened and oil exportation will resume once the governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, is replaced by Mohammed Al-Shoukri, . . . selected months ago by the House of Representatives in Tobruk.

### **8. Pakistani officials: Suspected US drone kills militants [ABC via AP]**

- Pakistani intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. drone strike killed a militant commander and his associate near the Afghan border.
- Two intelligence officials say the drone targeted the commander, Qari Abdullah Dawar, as he was walking with his associate near their mountain hideout in the Tor Tangai area of North Waziristan on Wednesday.
- They say the slain militants were from the Gul Bahadur group, which has carried out attacks inside Afghanistan.

### **9. Indonesian police say no valid proof so far of death of ISIS fighter Bahrin Naim [Straits Times – SGP]**

- Indonesian police said there has been no valid proof confirming the death of Bahrin Naim, one of the country's most notorious militants who was reported to be fighting alongside the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Middle East.
- Verification of his death requires "valid evidence", national police spokesman, Inspector General Setyo Wasisto, said in a mobile message reply to The Straits Times on Thursday (July 5) morning. "I cannot comment if there is not yet any accurate data," he added.
- His comments were made after a Channel NewsAsia report, citing a regional security source, said on Wednesday that the ISIS senior member has been killed [mid-May] in a drone strike in Syria.
- Bahrin, who had a role in the 2016 Jakarta attacks that killed four bystanders, was said to have helped coordinate attacks in Indonesia from Raqqa, Syria, via Telegram, a smartphone messaging app.

### **10. Philippine troops retake town after 12-hour standoff with Islamists [Reuters]**

- Philippine soldiers backed by armoured vehicles have retaken a southern town held for 12 hours by pro-Islamic State militants, the army said on Wednesday, with four rebels killed in urban clashes reminiscent of a five-month siege last year.
- The clashes followed warnings by President Rodrigo Duterte that remnants of pro-Islamic State militant groups had been recruiting and still planning attacks on several southern cities to set up an independent and separate Islamic state.

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- Troops pursued militants from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) group, who fled to the hills after trying to occupy a marshland town . . . There was no immediate comment from the Islamist militants' group.
- The army said the Datu Paglas attack could be a test case, since the area was near the militants' marshland base.
- Since March, the military has shifted its combat operations from Marawi, a battered lakeside town in Mindanao embroiled in last year's five-month conflict, to the island's marshes where other pro-Islamic State militants operate.

### **11. IS Claims Killing 20 Filipino Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Brigade in Maguindanao in Formal Communique** [SITE Intelligence Group]

- Shortly after its 'Amaq News Agency reported the killing of 20 Filipino soldiers in an attack by Islamic State (IS) fighters in Maguindanao, in the Philippines, the group issued a formal communique for the operation.
- In the message, which was issued by the "East Asia" division, the IS stated that fighters assaulted positions of the 40th Infantry Brigade in Pidsandawan barangay, killing 20 and capturing war spoils of weapons and ammunitions.

### **12. Paris attacks victims aim to find out who held back soldiers** [Washington Post via AP]

- Survivors and families of victims of the deadly 2015 attack on Paris' Bataclan concert hall have brought a case before France's administrative court to find out why French soldiers stationed nearby were ordered not to intervene when Islamic State gunmen stormed the venue.
- The new procedure Wednesday seeks to expose who was responsible in the French government for the soldiers' actions.
- It comes one month after victims filed a legal complaint with the same goal.
- During the attacks, eight soldiers standing near the Bataclan as part of an internal security operation were ordered not to use their weapons. The government later clarified the rules of engagement for its military in similar situations.

### **13. French Pro-AQ Group Incites Lone Wolves to Attack Russia** [SITE Intelligence Group]

- Again citing the May 2017 speech from al-Qaeda (AQ) official Hamza bin Laden, a French pro-AQ group incited lone wolves to attack Russia.
- Al-Kifah placed an excerpt regarding Russia from Hamza's speech "Advice for Martyrdom-Seekers in the West" on Arabic, English, and French posters . . . , with the message "Fight in the battle of your Ummah and do your duty!".
- The displayed image shows the moment after Melvut Mert Altintas shot and killed Andrei Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, in Ankara in December 2016.

### **14. Neo-Nazi NSU trial: Beate Zschäpe gives closing remarks ahead of verdict** [Deutsche Welle – DEU/GER – embedded photo]

- The main defendant in Germany's neo-Nazi terror trial distanced herself from right-wing extremism in her closing remarks and asked the presiding judge to refrain from convicting her as a murder accomplice.
- "Please don't convict me in the place of others for something that I never wanted to do nor ever did," Beate Zschäpe said in court in Munich.

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- The 43-year-old from the eastern German city of Jena is believed to be the only surviving member of the far-right terror cell Nationalist Socialist Underground (NSU).
- She and two other men, the now-deceased Uwe Böhnhardt and Uwe Mundlos, are accused of murdering 10 people, most of them minorities . . . from 2000 to 2007.
- This updates [trial proceedings] a prior ONN article

### 15. [Report: Germany Mediating Between Israel and Hamas in Prisoner Swap Talks](#) [Haaretz – ISR]

- According to report, two German envoys visited Gaza several times in secret, but no progress has been made.
- Hamas says it won't agree to deal without guarantee that its prisoners will be released.

### 16. [Egypt says it killed 3 jihadists, destroyed Gaza tunnels](#) [News24 – RSA via AFP]

- The Egyptian army said on Tuesday its forces killed three jihadists in the Sinai and destroyed tunnels at Rafah on the Gaza border as part of a vast campaign against militants.
- The Rafah border crossing is the only entrance to the Gaza Strip not controlled by Israel, and Egypt's sole frontier with the Palestinian enclave has remained largely closed since 2013.
- Egyptian authorities believe these tunnels are used by jihadists to enter North Sinai.

### 17. [Air strikes resume in southwest Syria after talks fail](#) [Reuters]

- Russian air strikes against insurgents in southwest Syria resumed on Wednesday, residents and a war monitor said, after a rebel said talks to restore government rule there peacefully had failed.

### 18. [Tunisian Security Arrests 3 Pro-ISIS Extremists](#) [Asharq al-Awsat]

- Anti-terrorism police in Tunisia arrested three takfiri members in the Sidi Bouzid region on suspicion of having ties with extremists outside the country.
- The Tunisian Ministry of Interior said . . . the three suspects . . . ages range between 25 and 33, and [it] confiscated 1,000 dinars in their possession.
- A search of one of their mobile phones revealed social media messages that were exchanged with a number of takfiri members living inside and outside Tunisia . . .[and] several pictures of ISIS leaders . . .

### 19. [Terrorist surrenders to authorities in Tamanrasset \[Algeria\]](#) [APS – Algeria – snippet view]

- A terrorist in possession of a Kalashnikov-type machine gun . . . surrendered on Wednesday to the military authorities of Tamanrasset, a statement from the [Algerian] Ministry of National Defence

### 20. [Top Taliban leader among 7 dead, wounded in AAF airstrikes in Faryab province](#) [Khaama Press – AFG]

- At least seven Taliban militants including a key leader of the group were killed or wounded during the airstrikes conducted by the Afghan Air Force in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan.
- According to the Shaheen Corps, a senior leader of the group identified as Mullah Samad [aka] . . . Jawid was among those wounded.
- Mullah Samad is among the prominent leaders of the Taliban who was appointed as the deputy shadow governor of the group, Shaheen Corps said.
- Also from Khaama: At least three more members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria Khurasan (ISIS-K) were arrested in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province. [3 members of ISIS-K urban network arrested in Jalalabad city](#)

### 21. [5th bomb explosion at Yala \[Thailand\] rubber plantations in 8 days](#) [Bangkok Post]

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- A rubber tapper was seriously wounded by a bomb explosion while working in Muang district in the early hours of Thursday - the fifth victim of a bomb in a rubber plantation in eight days in this southern [Thailand] province.

- Included in ONN for situational awareness

### 22. [Wives and Children of ISIS, Unwanted Back Home, Are Warehoused in Syria](#) [New York Times]

- When her husband uprooted their family from Morocco to live under the Islamic State in Syria, Sarah Ibrahim had little choice but to go along. After he disappeared — she believes he was killed in an airstrike on a prison — she fled with her two sons.
- They were captured last year and have been held ever since in this dusty, sweltering detention camp in northeastern Syria.
- They are among the more than 2,000 foreign women and children being held in such camps, trapped in a legal and political limbo with no foreseeable way out.
- Their home countries do not want them back, fearing they could spread radical Islamist ideology. The Kurdish authorities that administer this stateless war zone do not want them either, and say it is not their job to indefinitely detain citizens of other countries.
- . . . Kurdish officials allowed us to interview Arab women held there but refused to let us interview or photograph Western women . . .
- But . . . we spoke informally with women from France, Germany, Denmark, Holland and a number of Arab counties. Kurdish officials did not let us ask the Western women their names.

### 23. [\[Saudi\] Crown Prince Meets with US Envoy for War against ISIS](#) [Asharq al-Awsat]

- Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, met on Wednesday evening with US Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS Brett McGurk in Jeddah.
- The Crown Prince and McGurk discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and exerted efforts to achieve security and stability in the region.

### 24. [IS Division in Libya Releases Video on Suicide Bombings in Ajdabiya, Jufra, and Sirte, Raid on Qanan Police Station](#) [SITE Intelligence Group]

- The Islamic State's (IS) Barqah Province in Libya released a video on its suicide bombings and raids in past four months in Ajdabiya and Jufra, and featured a speech by an English-speaking fighter promoting the pursuit of martyrdom in battle.
- The 26 minute . . . video, entitled, "The Point of Death," was distributed on July 4, 2018.
- The production opens with a clip of Donald Trump from a Wall Street Journal interview in April 2011 in which he espoused an oil-driven foreign policy, stating that he would support intervention in Libya if it meant taking its oil.
- The conclusion of the video features an English-subtitled excerpt from a speech by IS spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir directed to fighters in Libya, and an English-subtitled Arabic chant over footage of clashes and beheadings.

### 25. [Philippines wants rebels 'encamped' in fixed areas for talks](#) [Washington Post via AP]

- The Philippine government will demand that peace talks with communist rebels shift from Europe to the Philippines and the insurgents are encamped in designated areas during the negotiations to peacefully settle one of Asia's longest-raging insurgencies.

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- Presidential adviser Jesus Dureza said Thursday that New People's Army guerrillas would also be asked to stop collecting so-called "revolutionary tax" from companies and demanding to be part of a future coalition government.
- President Rodrigo Duterte's conditions were finalized in a meeting with top military and police officials late Wednesday.
- They're seen as likely to be rejected by the guerrillas, who fear that holding talks in Manila would expose them — including their Europe-exiled leaders — to military surveillance and harassment.

**(U//FOUO) This document is tracked by HSEC Codes: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 8.9, and 8.10.**

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# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Prevention and Information Center



### Counterterrorism Section

### Daily Awareness and Homeland Security Brief

05 July 2018

#### **TLO Meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
Public Safety HQ - 3510 S. Michigan  
July 25, 2018 0800-1230hrs

#### **Special Events**

##### **Chicago Summer Dance**

Grant Park @ 1800-2130hrs

##### **Lincoln Square Summer Concert Series**

4731 N. Lincoln @ 1830hrs

##### **NEWCITY Concert Series**

1457 N. Halsted @ 1900hrs

##### **Festival Guadaluano**

06 July-08 July 2018  
3200 E. 91<sup>st</sup> Street

##### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Millennium Art Festival**

06 July – 08 July 2018  
155 N. Michigan Ave.

##### **West Fest**

06 July – 08 July 2018  
1800-2000 W. Chicago Ave.

##### **Chicago Michelada Festival**

07 July – 08 July 2018  
1000- 1300 W. Cermak

##### **Live on Lincoln Park**

07 July – 08 July 2018  
1731 – 1845 N. Stockton

##### **Edison Park Salutes Those In Uniform**

07 July 2018  
6600 – 6733 N. Olmsted & 6600 N. Oliphant

#### **Public Gatherings**

##### **009<sup>th</sup> District**

Friday, 06 July 2018, 1700-1830 Hours, Rally & March, 4600 S. Wood Street. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Increase the Peace."

##### **006<sup>th</sup> District**

Saturday, 07 July 2018, 1000 Hours, Protest & March, 79<sup>th</sup> Street Red Line Station - 7900 S. State Street. The group will assemble regarding their campaign, "Shut Down the Dan Ryan to Combat Gun Violence."

##### **001<sup>st</sup> District**

Saturday, 07 July 2018, 1100 - 1400 Hours, March, Great Lawn, Millennium Park. The group will assemble regarding their campaign, "March for Our Rights Chicago."

##### **001<sup>st</sup> District**

Saturday, 07 July 2018, 1400 - 1700 Hours, Demonstration, Congress Parkway & Michigan Avenue. The group will assemble regarding their national solidarity campaign, "STOP Terrorizing Immigrants and Refugees!"

##### **012<sup>th</sup> District**

Sunday, 08 July 2018, 1300-1500 Hours, Action, 1952 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. The group will assemble regarding their campaign, "Affordable Housing for All - Don't Move. Fight Back!"

##### **001<sup>st</sup> District**

Monday, 09 July 2018, 1700 Hours, Rally, Federal Plaza - 230 S. Dearborn Street. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Rally in Response to Trump's Supreme Court Nominee."

##### **001<sup>st</sup> District**

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 1300-1600 Hours, Rally, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights - 228 S. Wabash Avenue. The group will assemble in regard to their campaign "No Borders, No Cages. Dismantle the Immigrant Rights Lobby [IRL]."

##### **012<sup>th</sup> District**

Saturday, 14 July 2018, 1200-1500 Hours, March, Plaza Tenochtitlan - 1800 S. Blue Island Avenue. The group will assemble regarding their campaign, "Joyful resistance: March for our Hoods 2018."

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# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Prevention and Information Center



### Counterterrorism Section

#### Daily Awareness and Homeland Security Brief

05 July 2018

#### Media Reporting

##### **(U) IS-Linked Group Warns “White House Down” Soon**

*In a poster referencing the 2013 film "White House Down," an Islamic State (IS)-linked group warned that it will happen and "is not a movie". Ashhad Media Foundation published the poster on Telegram on July 1, 2018, showing the White House in flames with soldiers stand on top and a plane flying overhead. The English text displayed on it reads: "White House Down Soon, Ansha'Allah [Allah willing]... This is not a movie! This is really happening!" Source: SITE Intelligence Group*

##### **(U) Suspect Reportedly Sent Threatening Letters Prior To Attack**

*A suspect in the fatal shooting of five people at the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis is believed to have sent three threatening letters to courts and a private law firm before the killings, police said on Tuesday. The letters were opened on Monday, at which point the recipients contacted the authorities, according to the spokesman. One letter is dated Thursday, June 28, the same day prosecutors say the suspect attacked the newspaper office. "I further certify I then did proceed to the office of respondent Capital-Gazette Communications ... with the objective of killing every person present," said the letter. Sources: Reuters, CNN*

##### **(U) Senior TTP Leader Reportedly Killed In Kunar Province**

*A U.S. drone strike on Tuesday reportedly struck a compound of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in eastern Afghanistan, causing casualties. The sources said a senior TTP leader was scheduled to visit the house of another TTP leader when the drone fired two missiles on the building at 10 a.m. local time. A security source said the strike targeted the leader in the Shultan district of Kunar province. Sources Twitter [Times of Istanbul] [Daily Times]*

##### **(U) Couple Exposed To Nerve Agent In United Kingdom**

*A man and woman found unconscious in Wiltshire were exposed to Novichok - the same nerve agent that poisoned ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal, police say. Police stated no one else has presented with the same symptoms. There was "nothing in their background" to suggest the pair were targeted, the Met Police said. The Counter Terrorism Policing Network is now leading the investigation, working with Wiltshire Police. Chemical weapons expert Richard Guthrie said it was possible that the Novichok which poisoned the Skripals may have been disposed of "in a haphazard way." Source: BBC*

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# Morning Brief

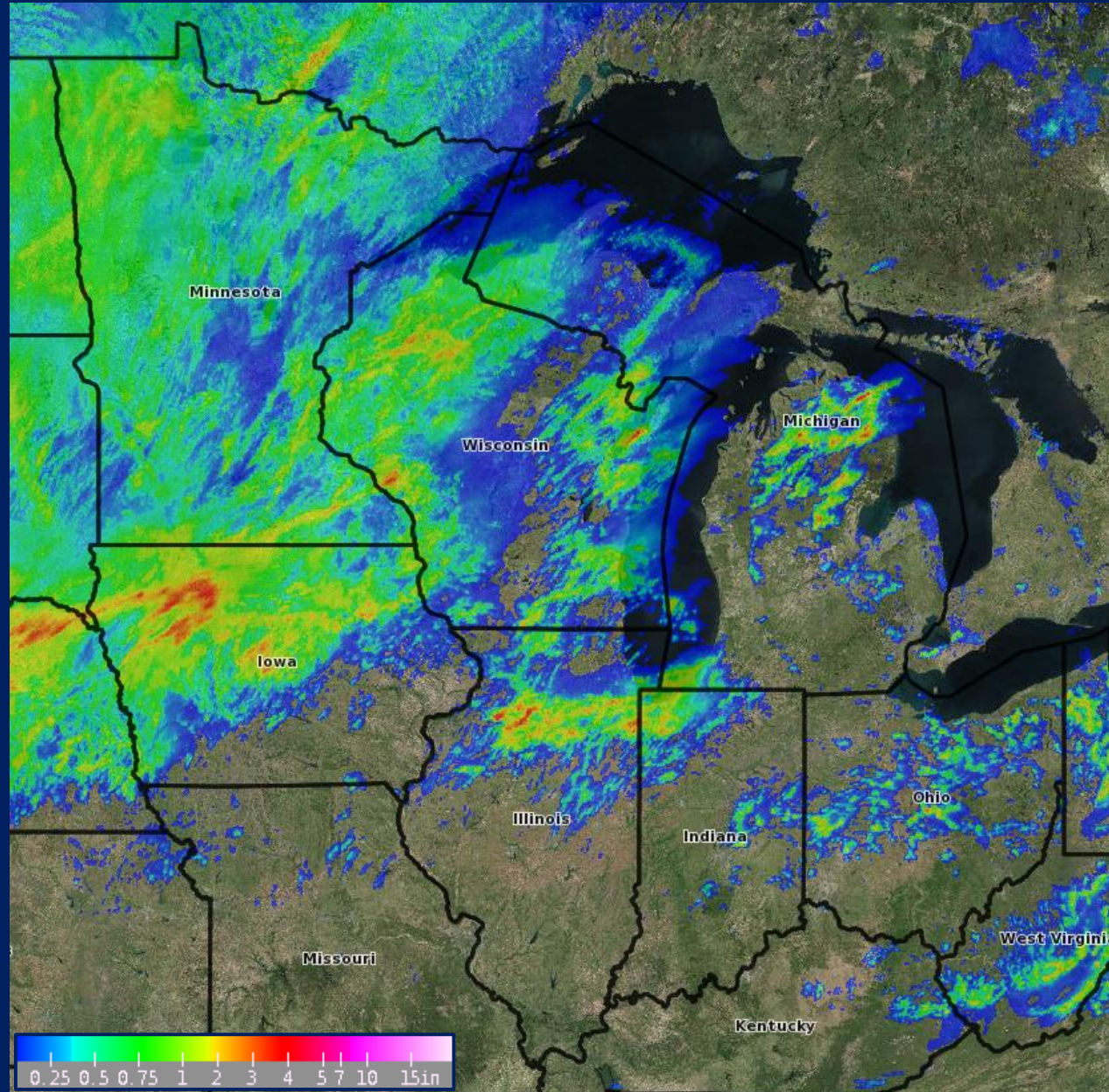
## Thursday, July 05, 2018

# WEATHER SUMMARY (Last 24 Hours)

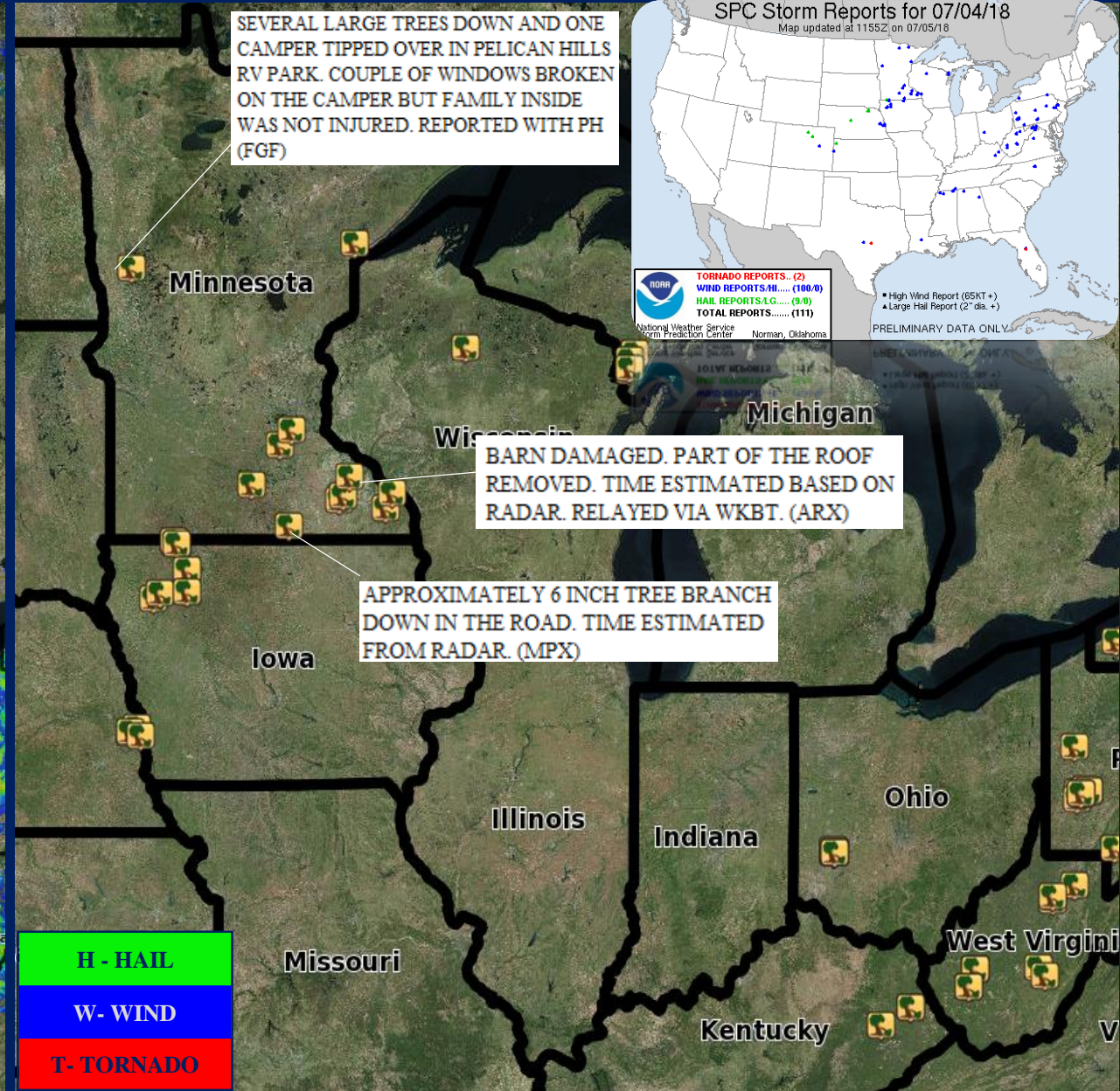
FEMA  
REGION V



## PRECIPITATION

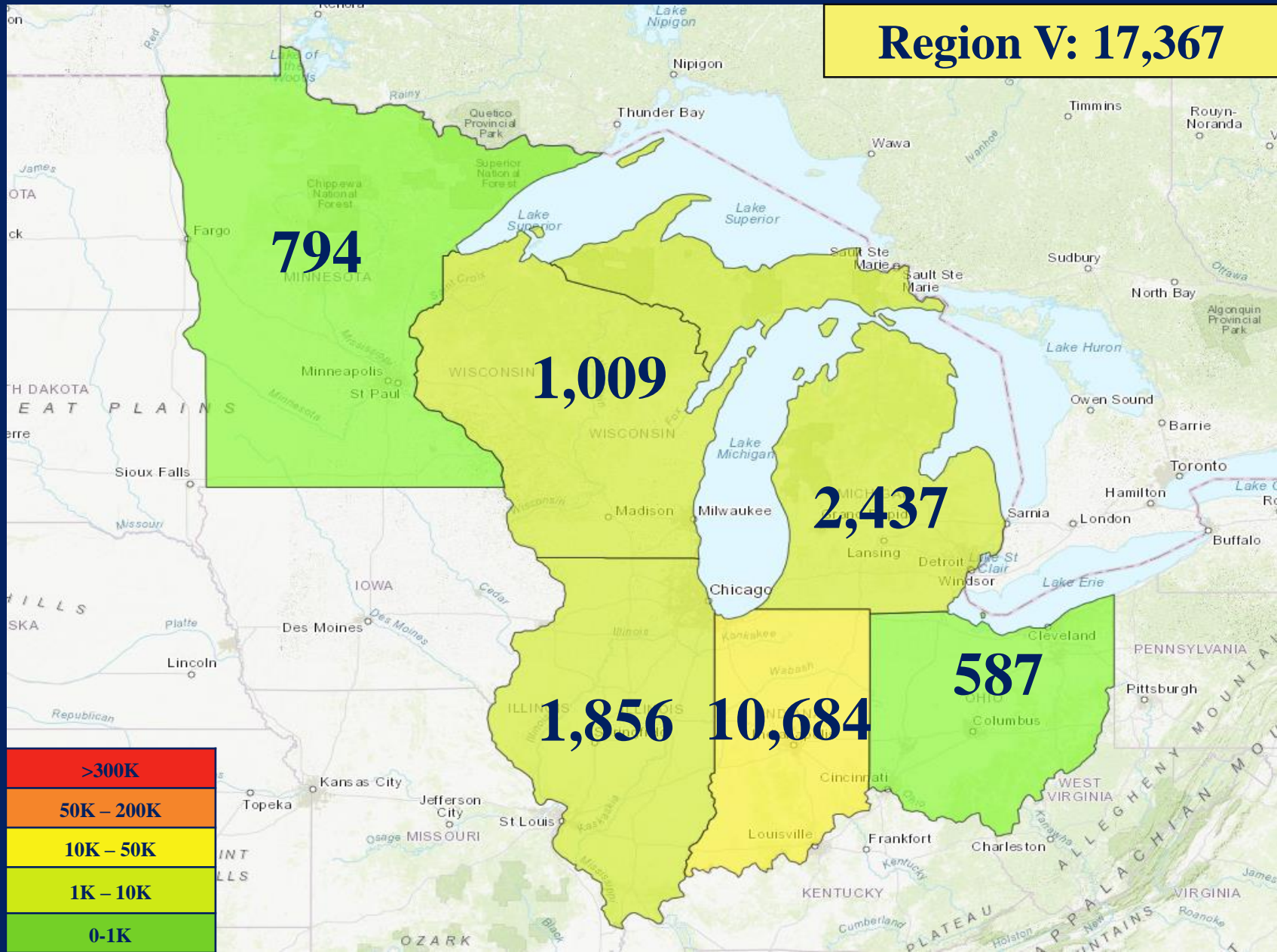


## STORM REPORTS



# INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS

## POWER OUTAGES



## CONDITIONS & THREATS

	AIRPORT STATUS	ROADWAY STATUS	NUCLEAR FACILITIES
IL			
IN			
MI			
MN			
OH			
WI			
RV			

EXCESSIVE	MASS FLOODING	GENERAL EMGY
SIGNIFICANT	FLOODING	SITE AREA EMGY
MODERATE	SNOW/ICE	ALERT
LOW	DEBRIS	UNUSUAL EVENT
NORMAL	NORMAL	NORMAL

	GEOMAGNETIC STORMS	SOLAR RADIATION STORMS	RADIO BLACKOUTS
DAY 1	None	S1 or GREATER	R1 – R2 1%
DAY 2	None		R3 – R5 1%

G5 EXTREME	S5 EXTREME	R5 EXTREME
G4 SEVERE	S4 SEVERE	R4 SEVERE
G3 STRONG	S3 STRONG	R3 STRONG
G2 MODERATE	S2 MODERATE	R2 MODERATE
G1 MINOR	S1 MINOR	R1 MINOR

# REGION V READINESS



## OPERATIONS STATUS

RRCC	NORMAL OPERATIONS
RWC	WATCH/STEADY STATE
IMAT	AVAILABLE
DCE	AVAILABLE
LNO	AVAILABLE
NTAS	NO ACTIVE ALERTS

## STATE OPERATIONS STATUS

ILLINOIS	NORMAL OPERATIONS
INDIANA	NORMAL OPERATIONS
MICHIGAN	NORMAL OPERATIONS
MINNESOTA	PARTIAL ACTIVATION (Flooding)
OHIO	NORMAL OPERATIONS
WISCONSIN	NORMAL OPERATIONS

THIS WEEK

## TRAINING & EXERCISES

NEXT WEEK

### TRAINING:

- **Jul 10:** REP Planning Core Concepts Course (RPCC); Columbus, OH
- **Jul 10-11:** Leadership Skills for Non-Supervisors; Chicago, IL
- **Jul 10-12:** REP Post-Plume Planning Course (RPPP); Columbus, OH
- **Jul 13:** REP Ingestion Dore Concepts Course (RICC); Columbus, OH
- **Jul 17-18:** L0552 Tribal Continuity of Operations (COOP); Cass Lake, MN
- **Jul 24:** L0583 Overview of Emergency Management for Tribal Leaders, Shelbyville, MI
- **Aug 22-23:** FERS/CSRS Retirement Course; Chicago, IL
- **Aug 24:** L0583 Overview of Emergency Management for Tribal Leaders; Cass Lake, MN

### EXERCISES:

- **Jul 17-18:** Prairie Island Ingestion Pathway REPEX, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- **Jul 18:** Tenacious Badger Nuclear Power Plant Incident Seminar; Madison, WI
- **Aug 7:** LaSalle REPEX, Illinois

## DISASTER DECLARATION STATUS

PDA SUMMARY: None

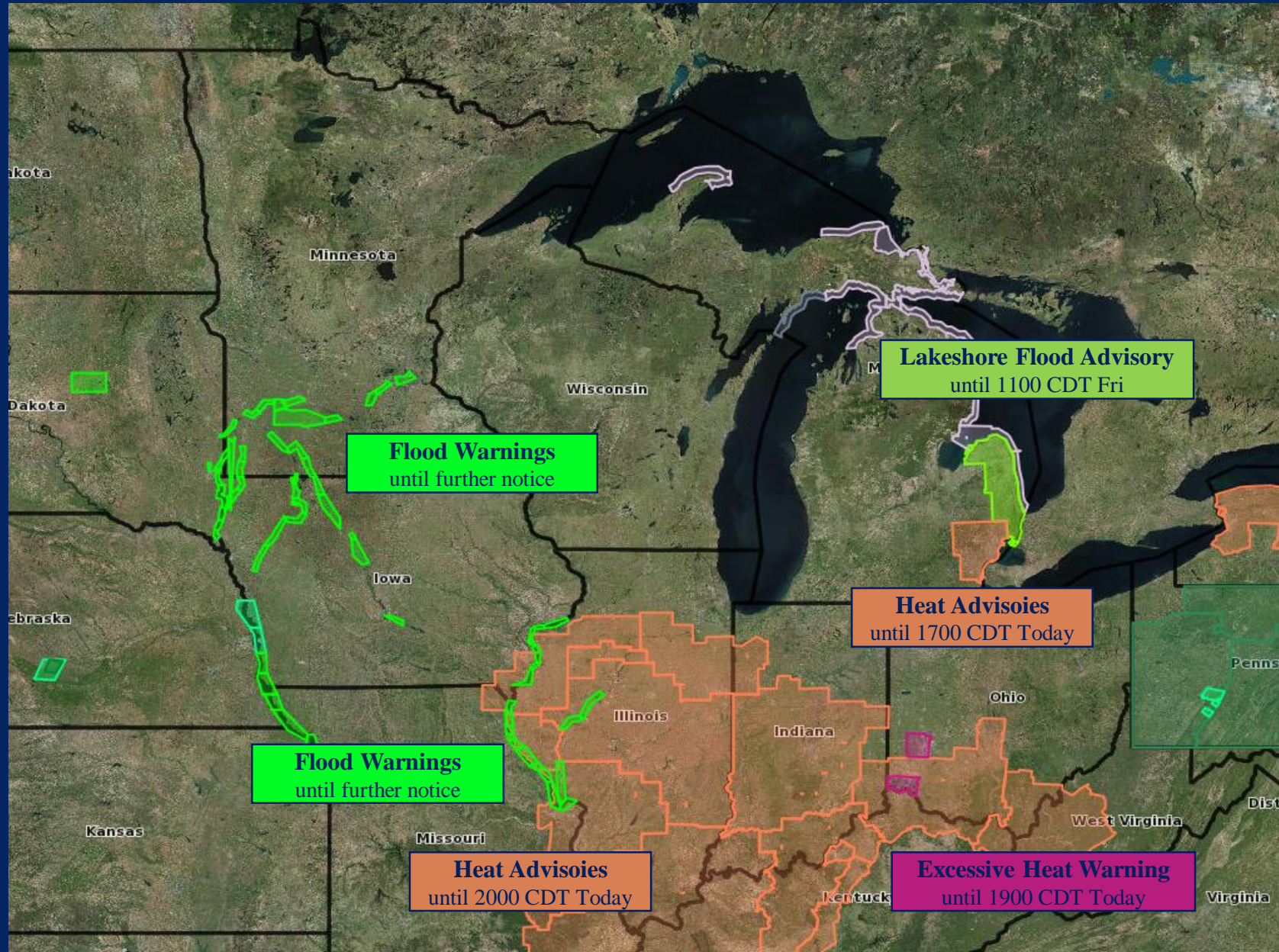
DECLARATION REQUESTS: None

### DECLARATIONS:

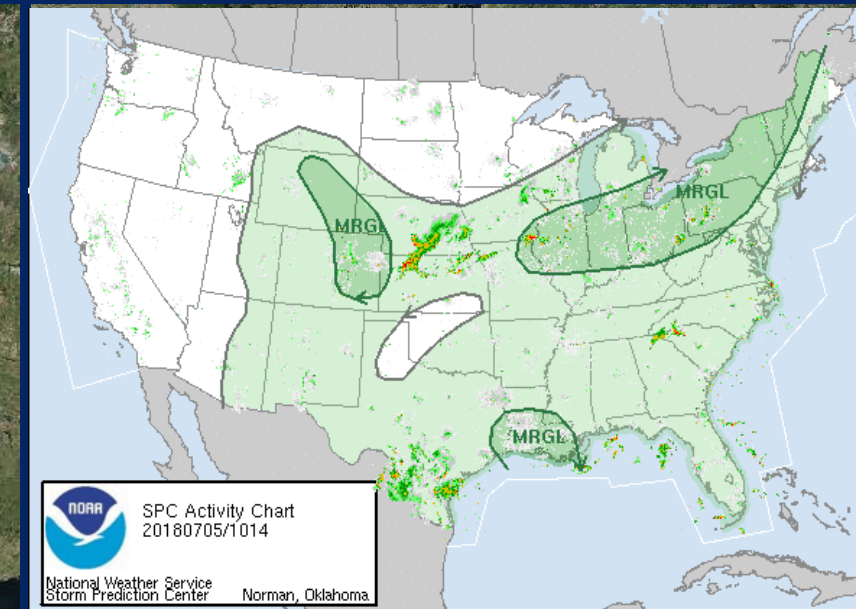
- **FEMA-4363-DR-IN.** On May 4, 2018, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Indiana as a result of severe storms and flooding during the period of February 14-March 4, 2018. Individual Assistance for nine (9) counties, Public Assistance for 27 counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The FCO is David Samaniego.
  - Amendment #1: On June 5, 2018, thirteen (13) counties were added for Individual Assistance.
  - Amendment #2: On June 5, 2018, one (1) county was added for Public Assistance.
- **FEMA-4360-DR-OH.** On April 17, 2018, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Ohio as a result of severe storms, flooding, and landslides during the period February 14-25. It provides Public Assistance for 18 counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.. The FCO is Steven Johnson.
  - Amendment #1: On May 24, 2018, four (4) counties were added for Public Assistance.
- **FEMA-4343-DR-WI.** On October 07, 2017, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Wisconsin as a result of severe storms, mudslides, flooding, and straight-line winds during the period of July 19-23. It provides Public Assistance for 11 counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The FCO is Janet Odeshoo.

# CURRENT WEATHER

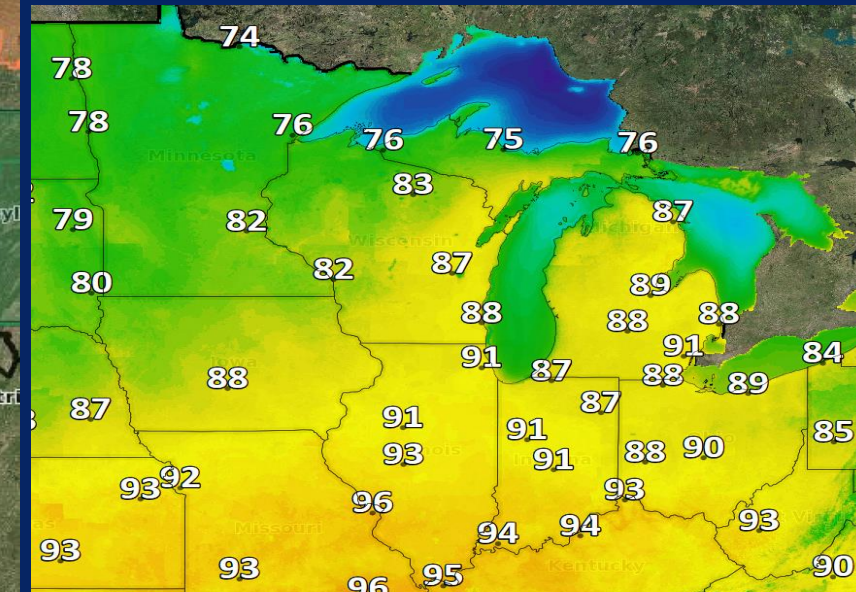
## WATCHES & WARNINGS



## RADAR



## TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

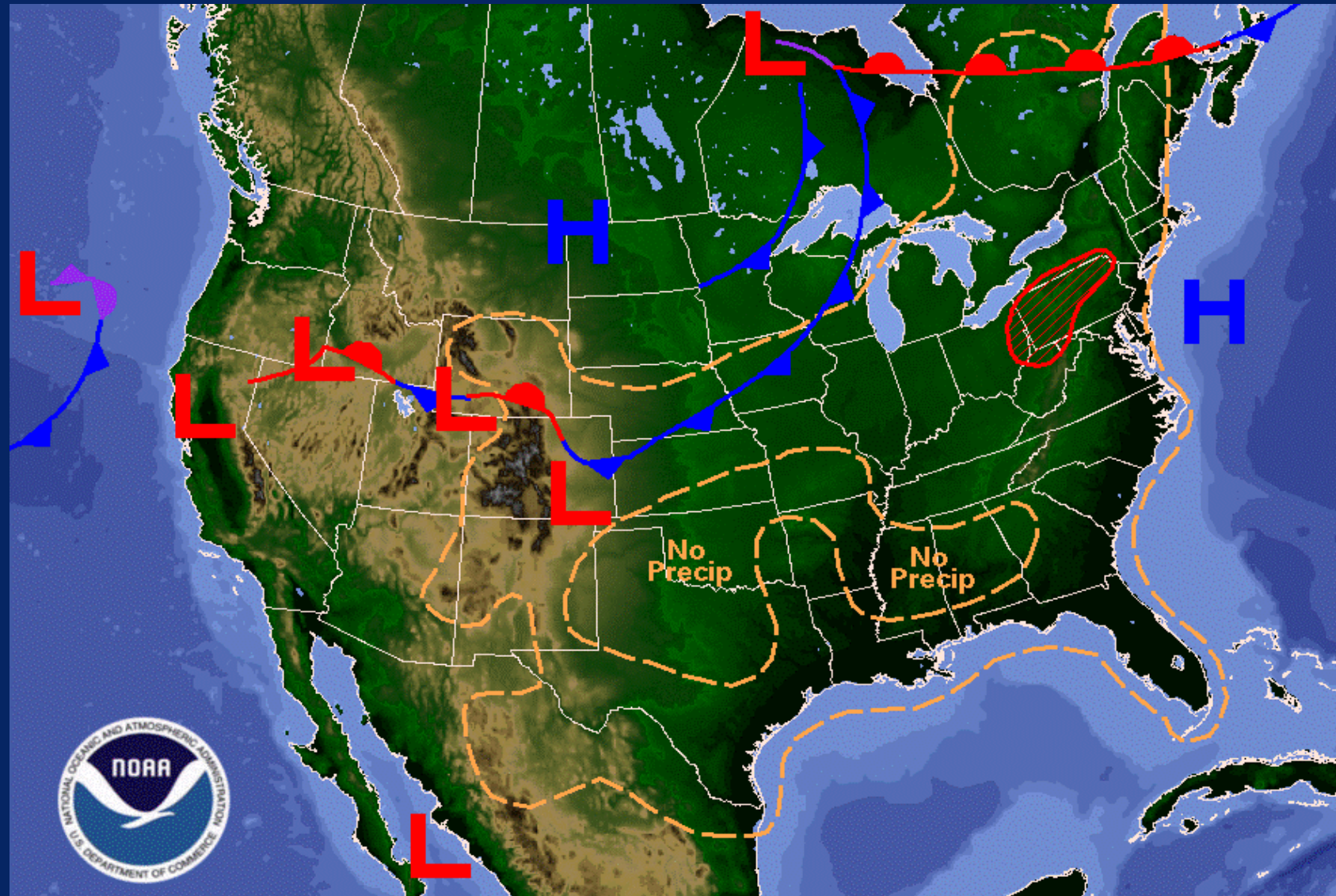


# DAY 1 FORECAST

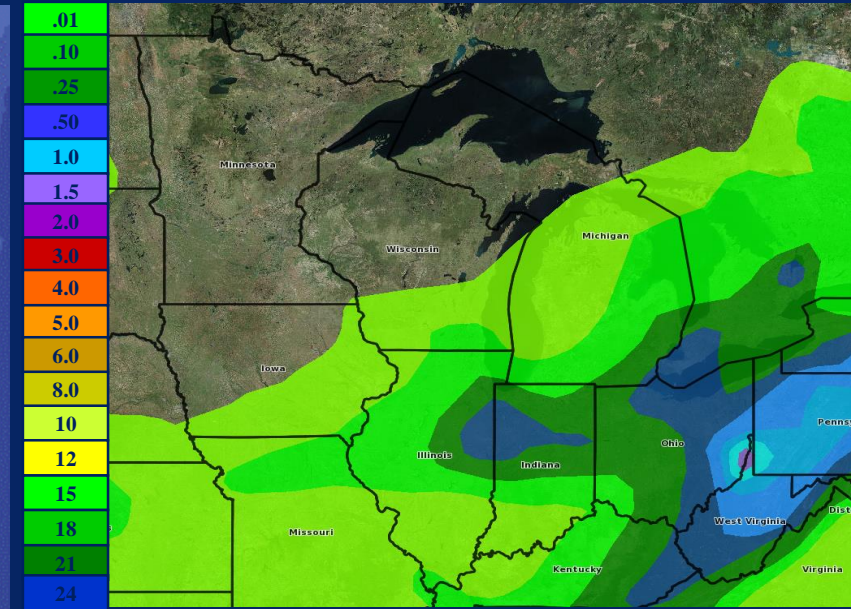
FEMA  
REGION V



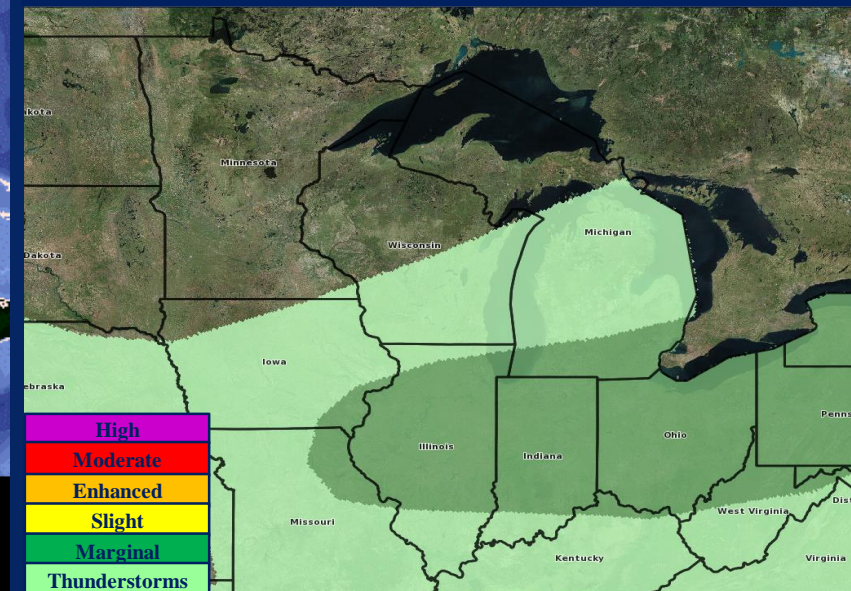
## NATIONAL FORECAST



## PRECIPITATION



## CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK

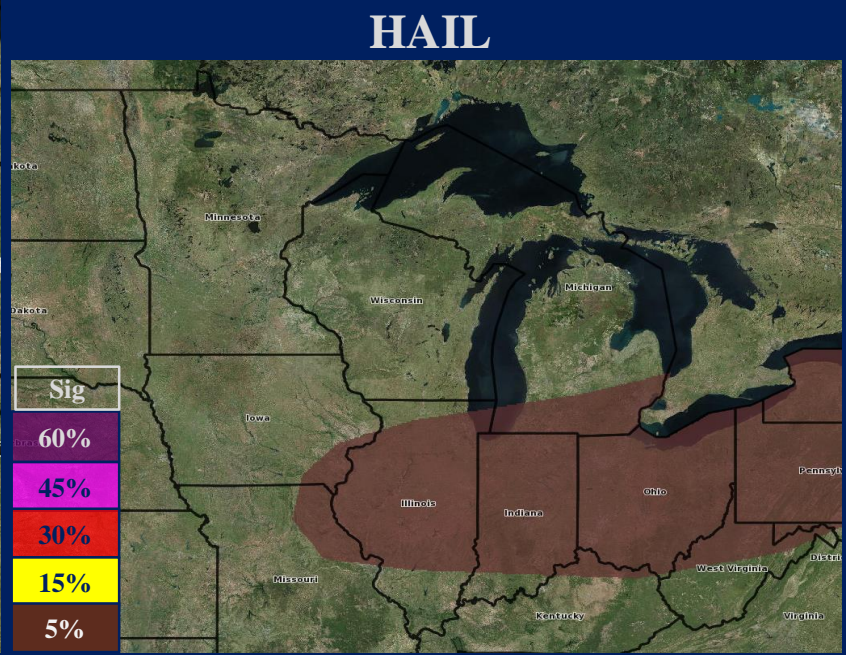
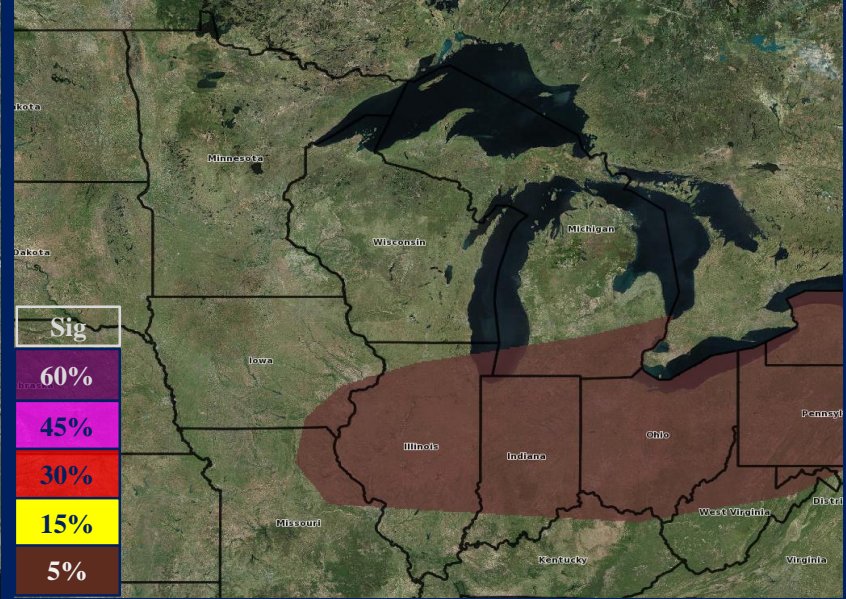


### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

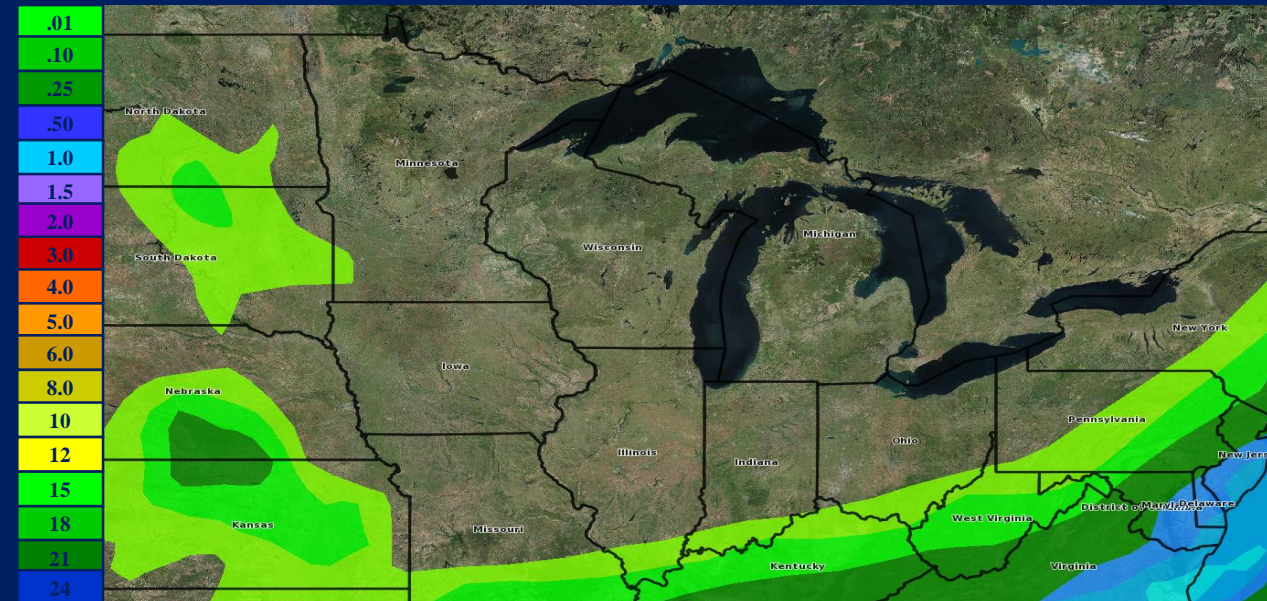
Valid Thu, Jul 05, 2018, issued 4:48 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Hammond with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

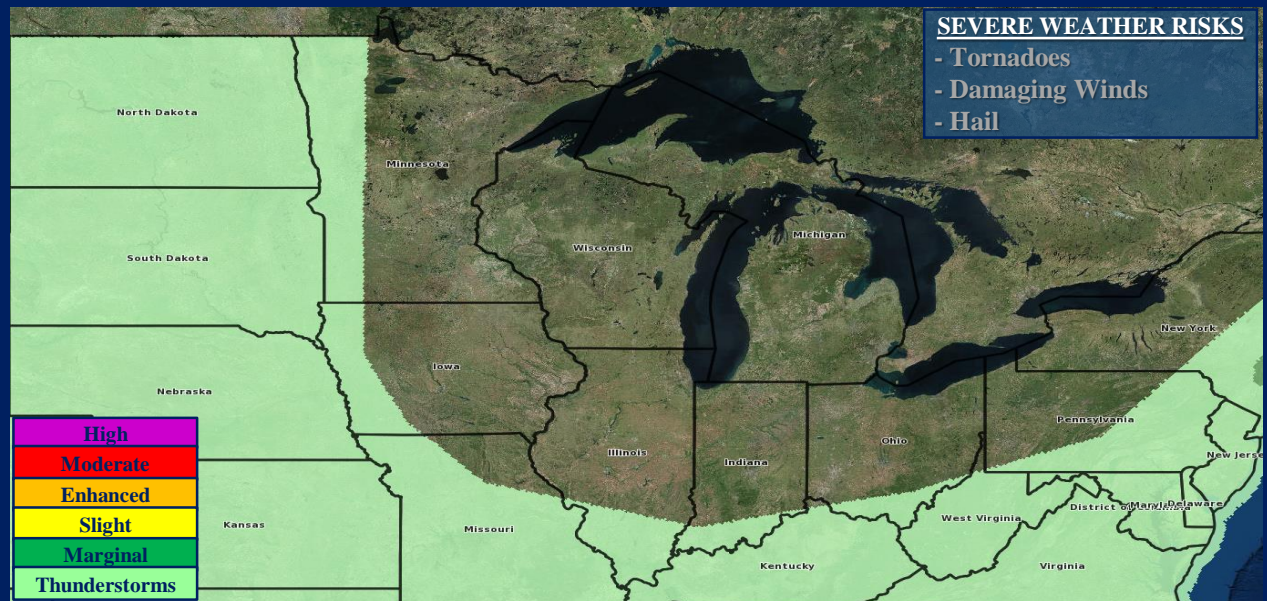
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



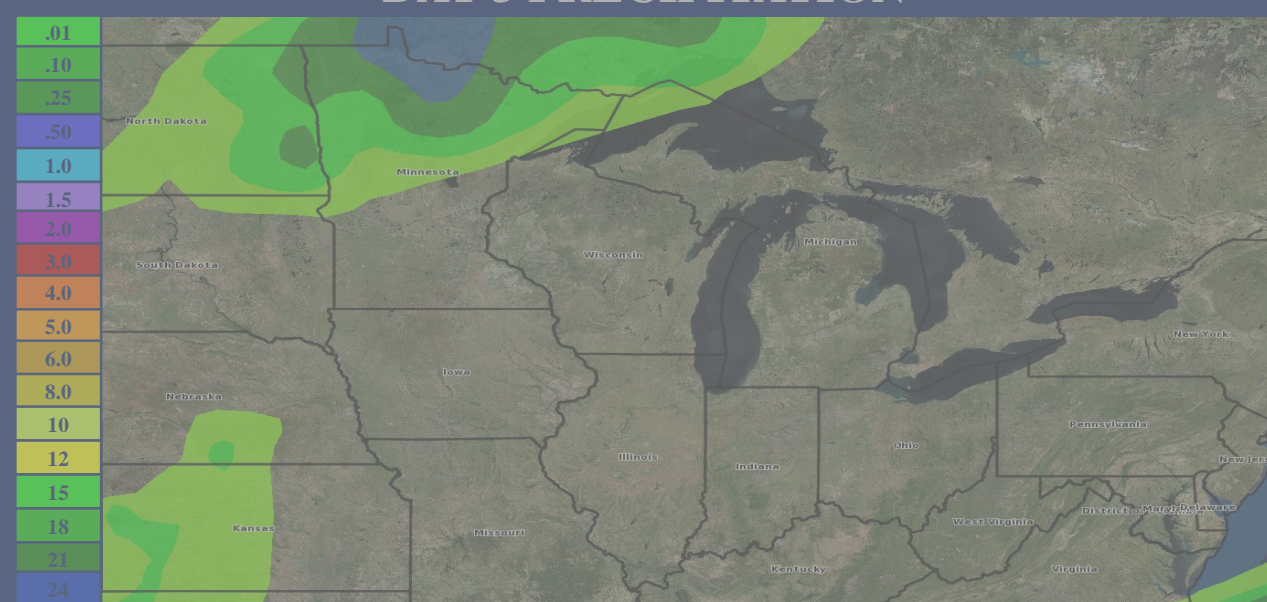
DAY 2 PRECIPITATION



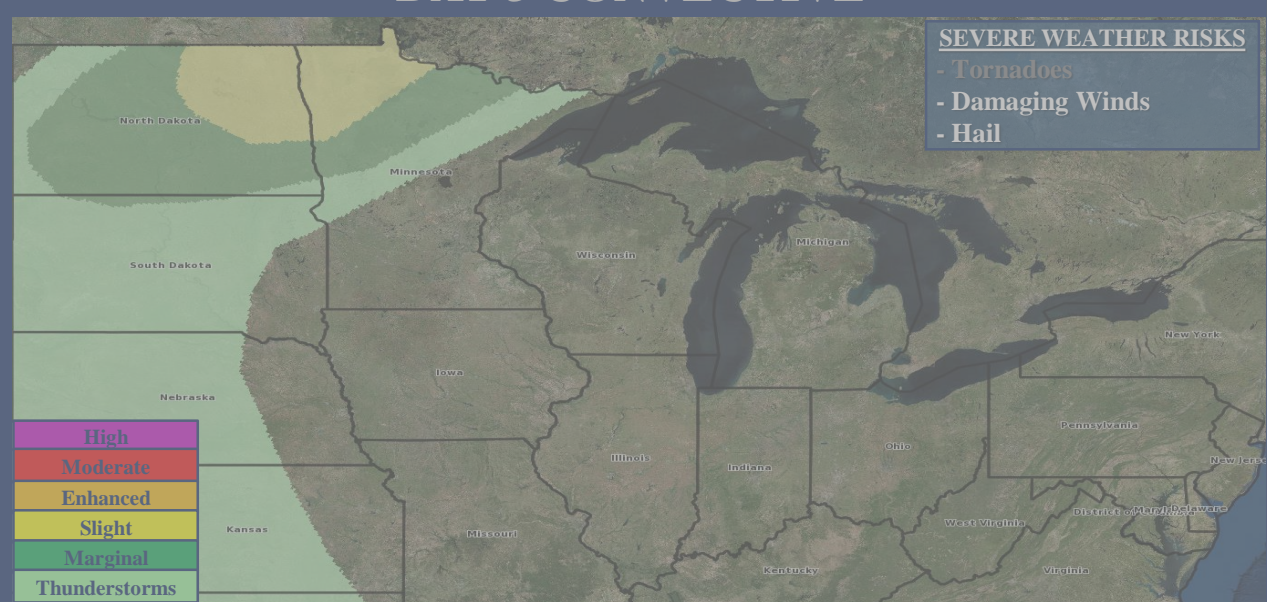
DAY 2 CONVECTIVE



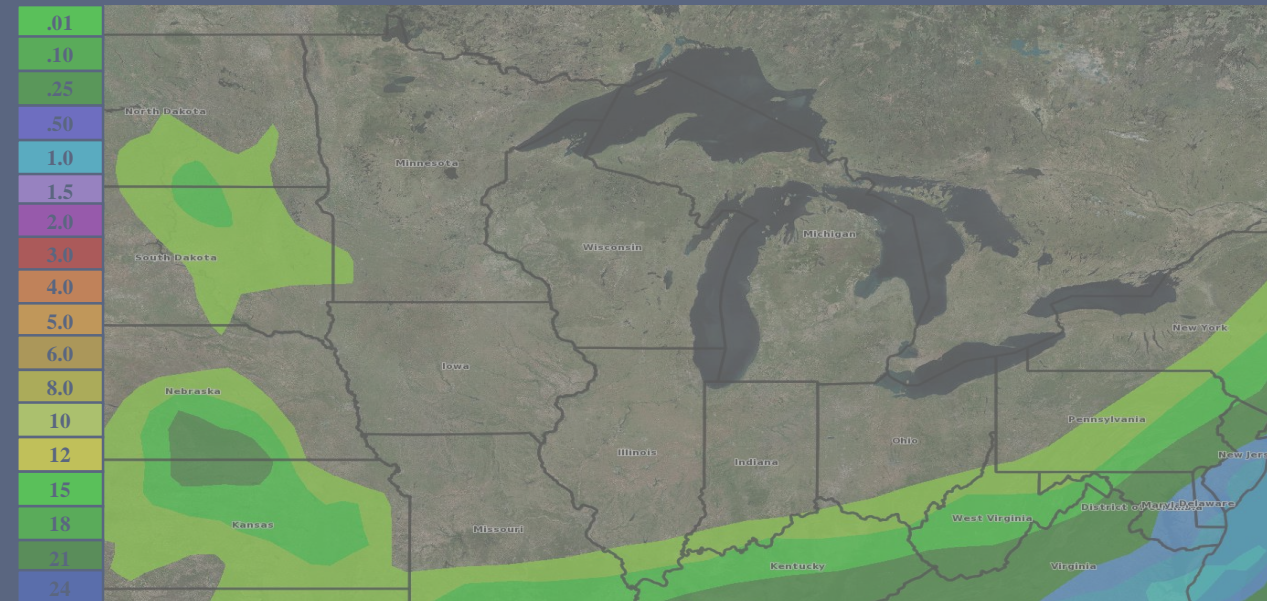
DAY 3 PRECIPITATION



DAY 3 CONVECTIVE



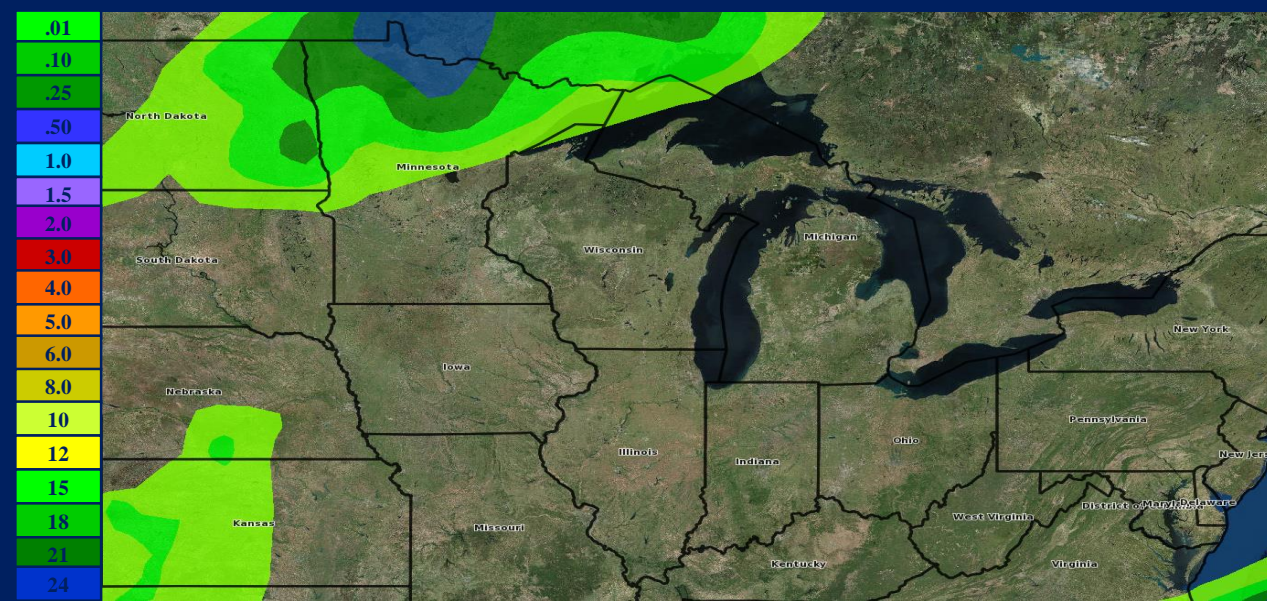
DAY 2 PRECIPITATION



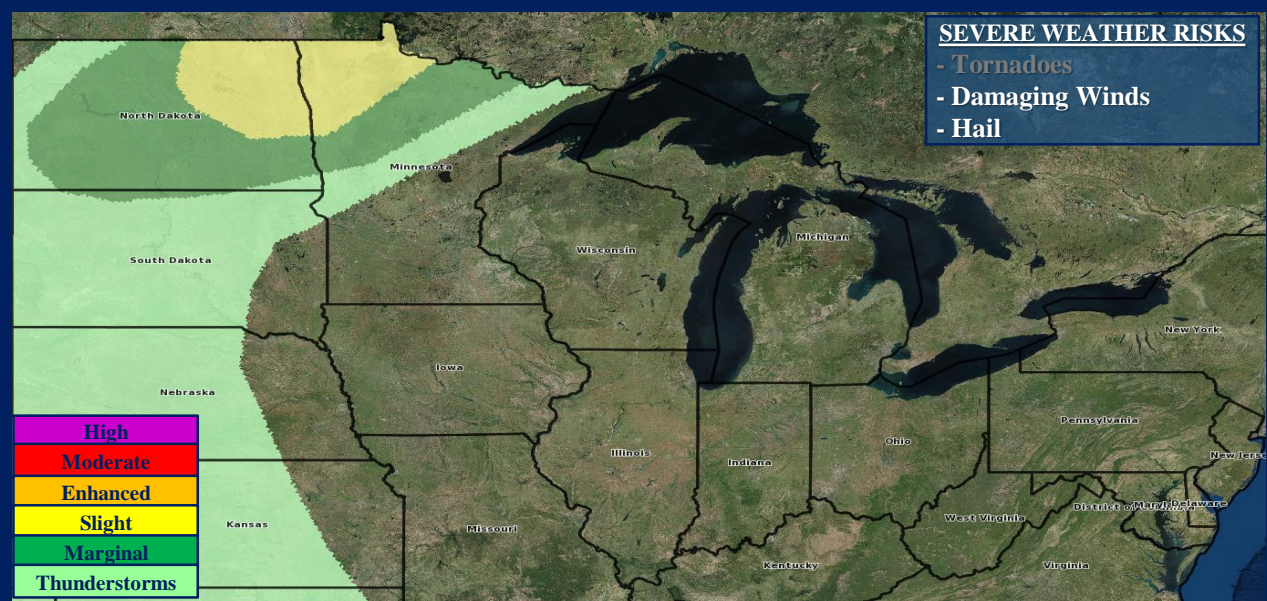
DAY 2 CONVECTIVE

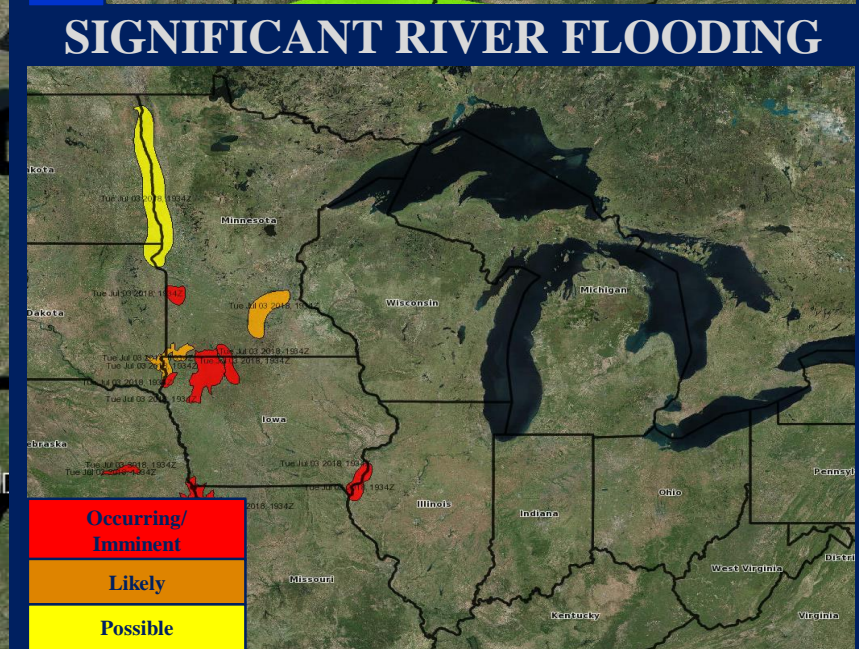
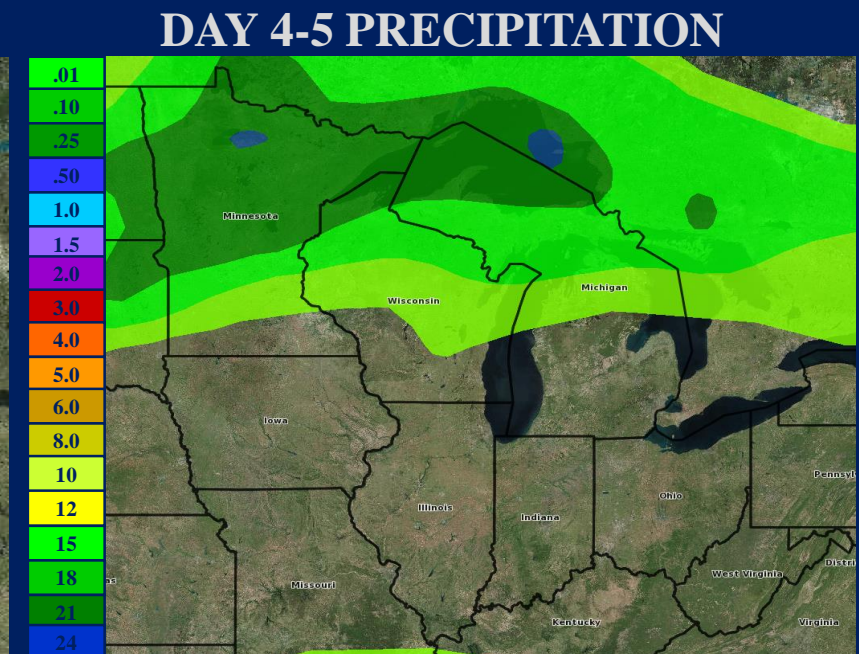
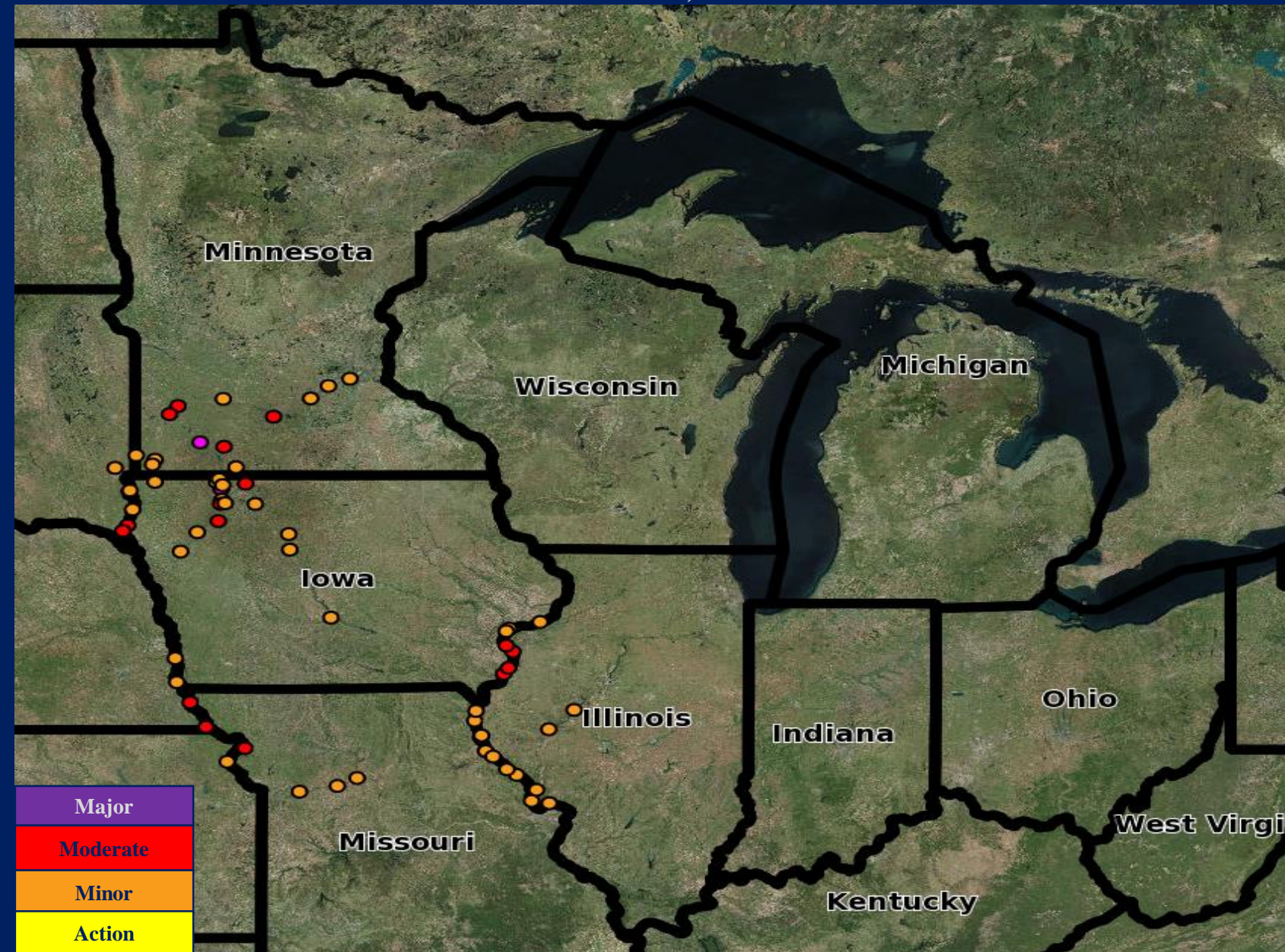


DAY 3 PRECIPITATION

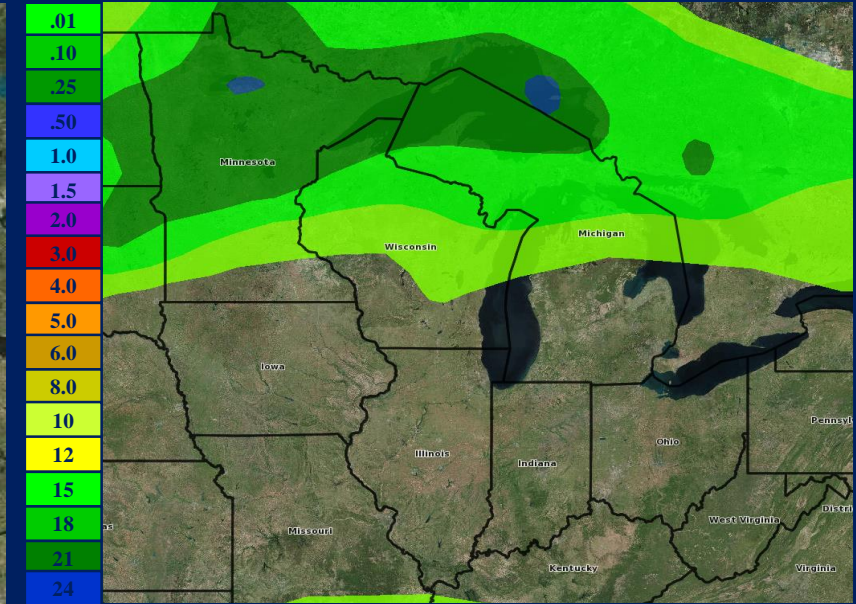


DAY 3 CONVECTIVE

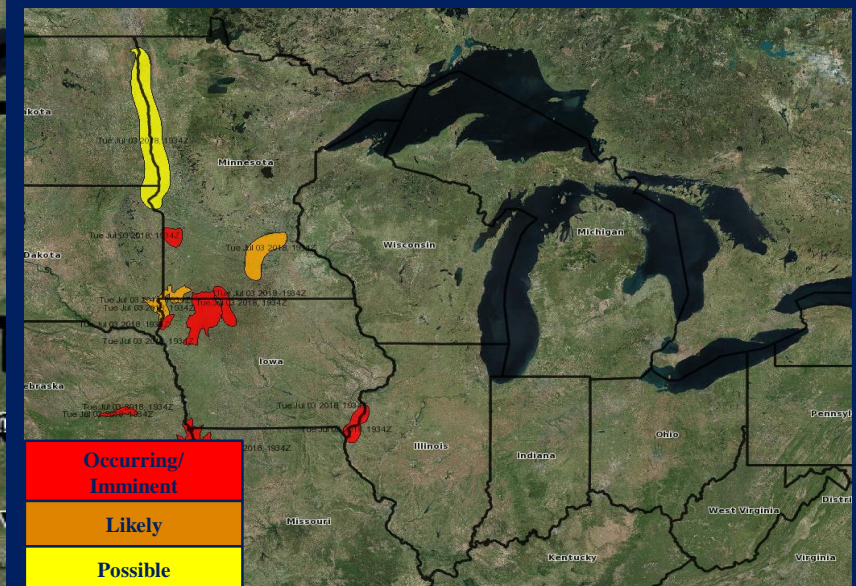












### DAY 4-5 PRECIPITATION



### SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING



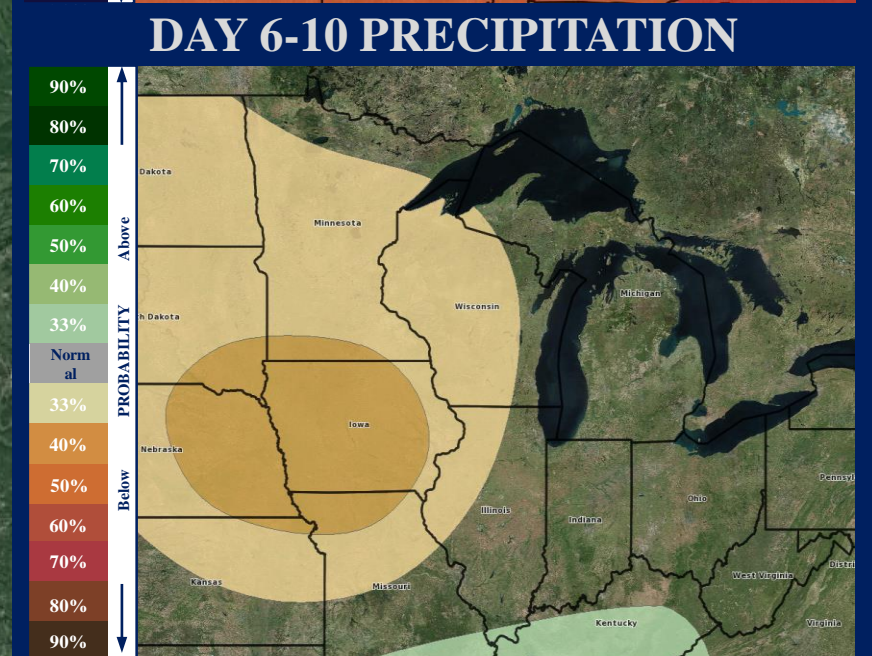
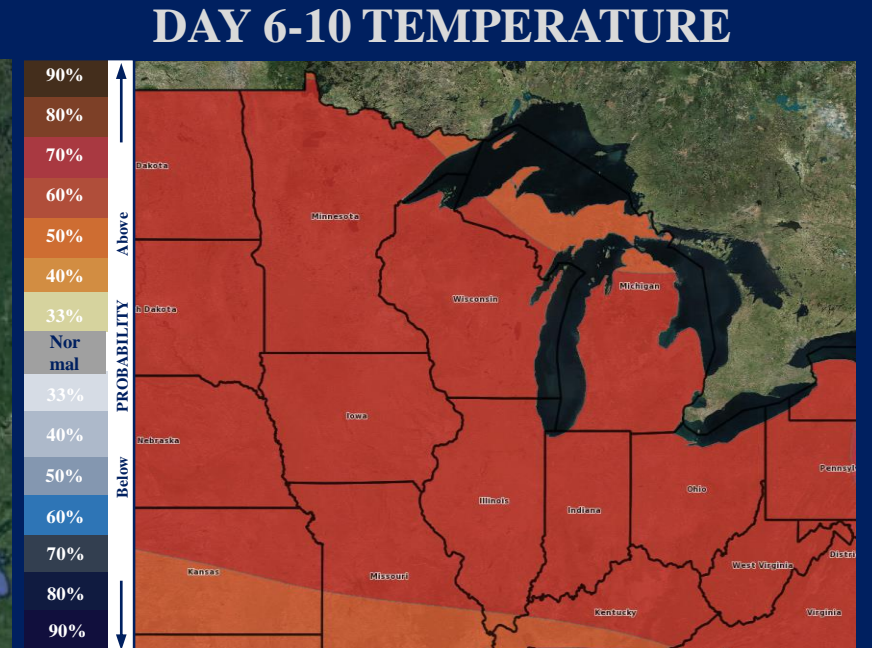
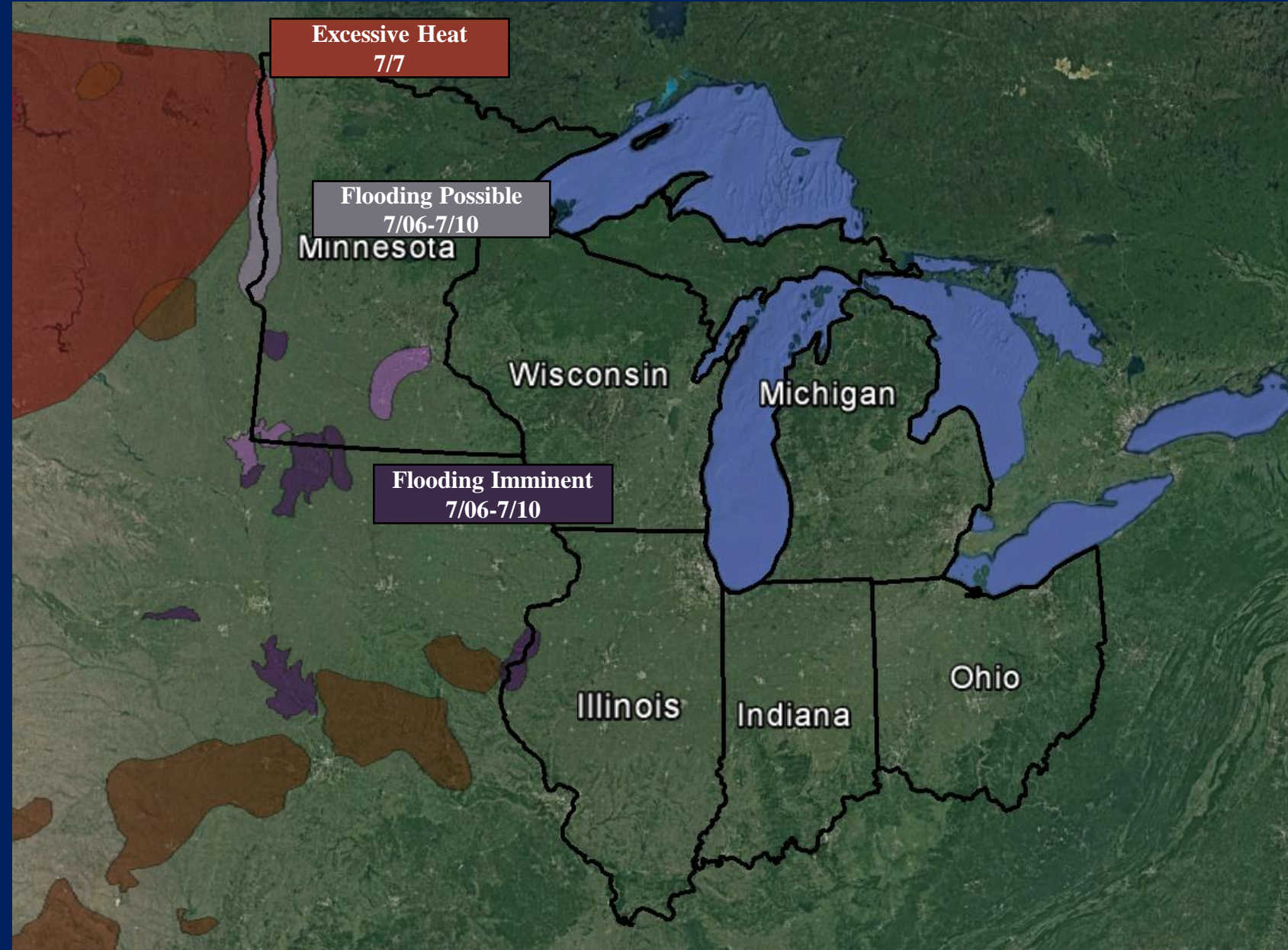
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night
							
Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear
High: 78 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 66 °F

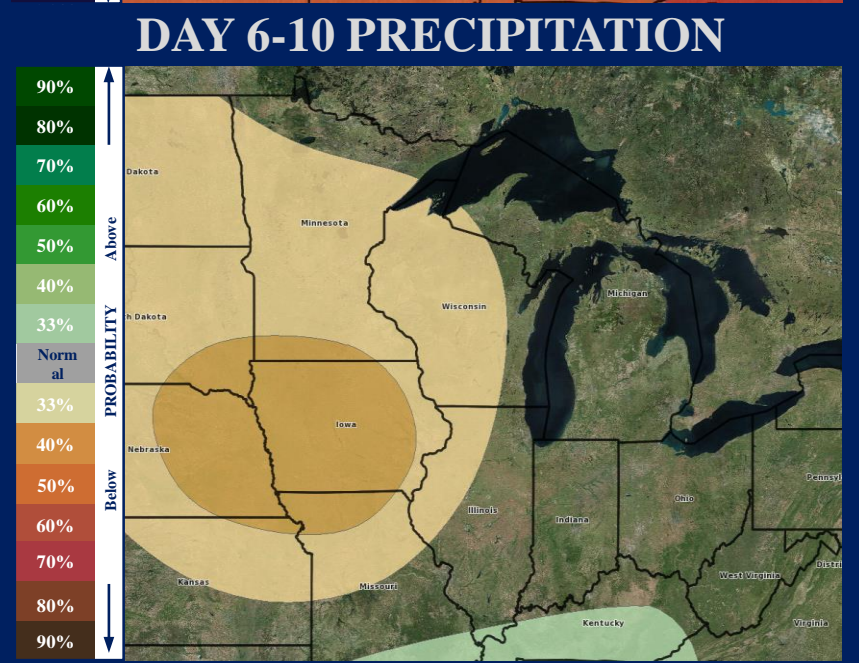
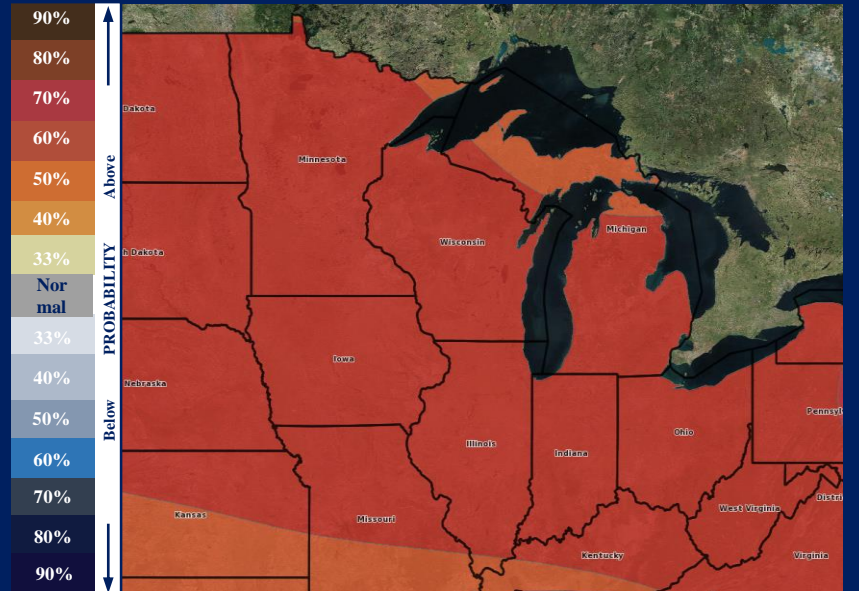
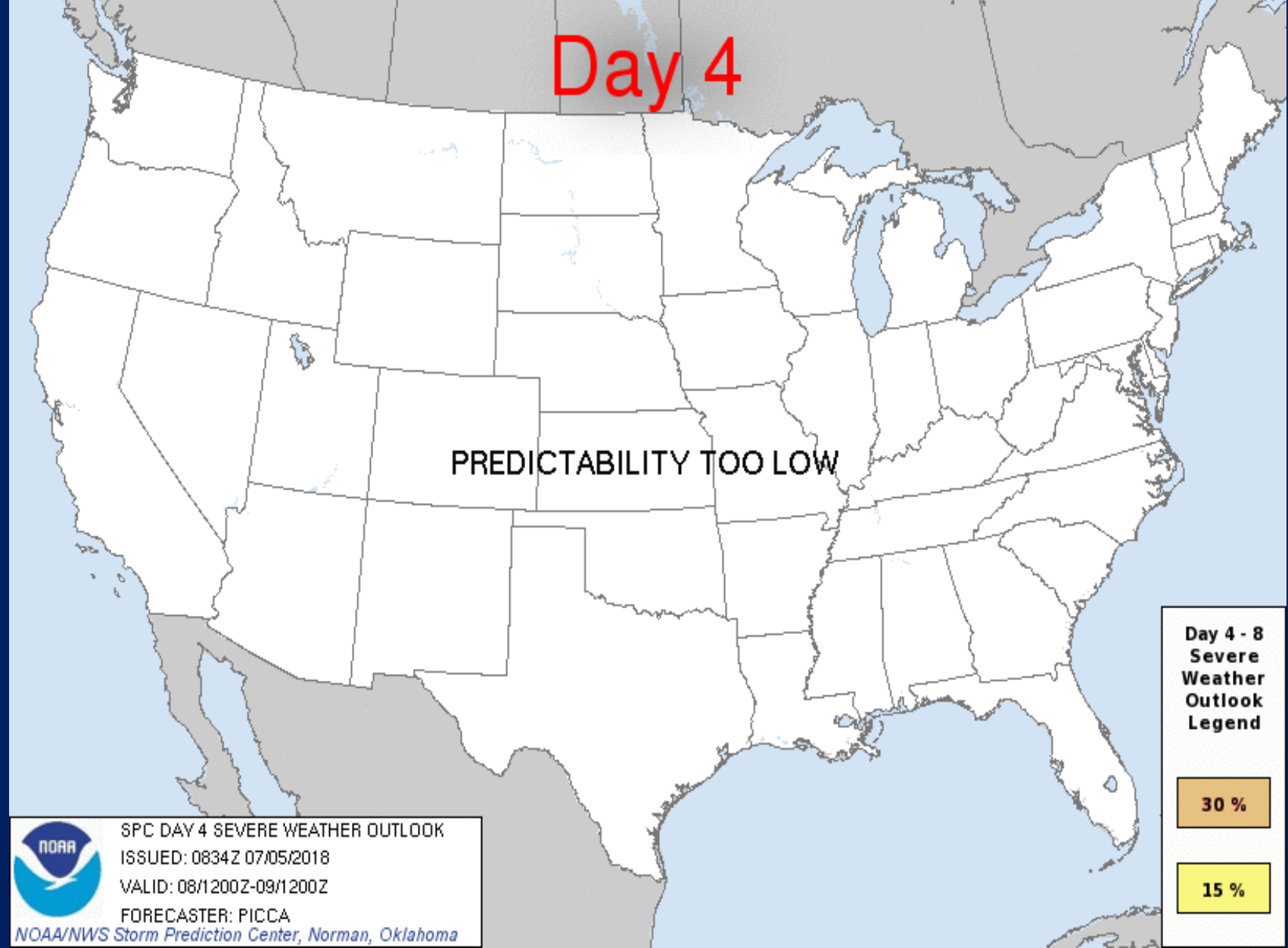
Major

Moderate

Minor

Action





# HURRICANE ACTIVITY

## ACTIVE STORMS, & HURRICANES

Atlantic Tropical Cyclones  
and Disturbances

**Disturbance #1**  
30% Chance of Cyclone  
Formation in 48 hours



**Disturbance #2**  
70% Chance of Cyclone  
Formation in 48 hours

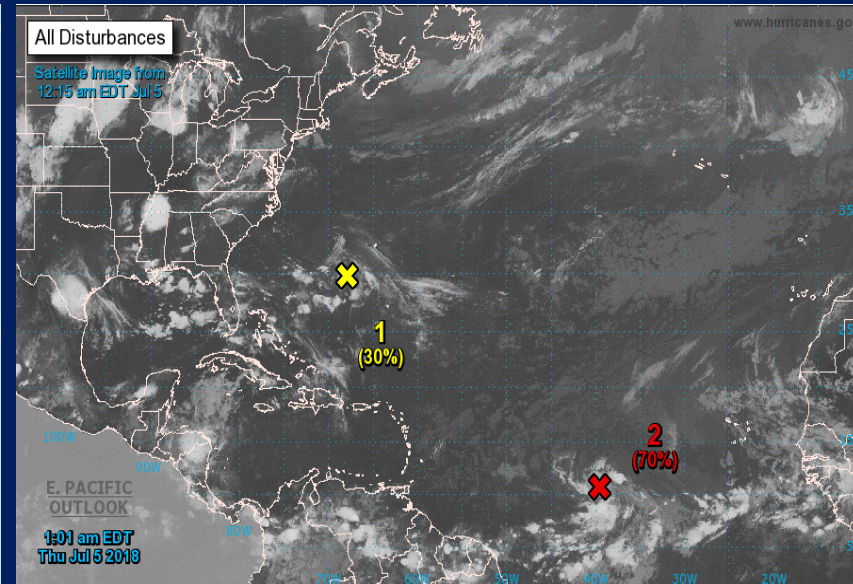


1:01 am EDT  
Thu Jul 5 2018

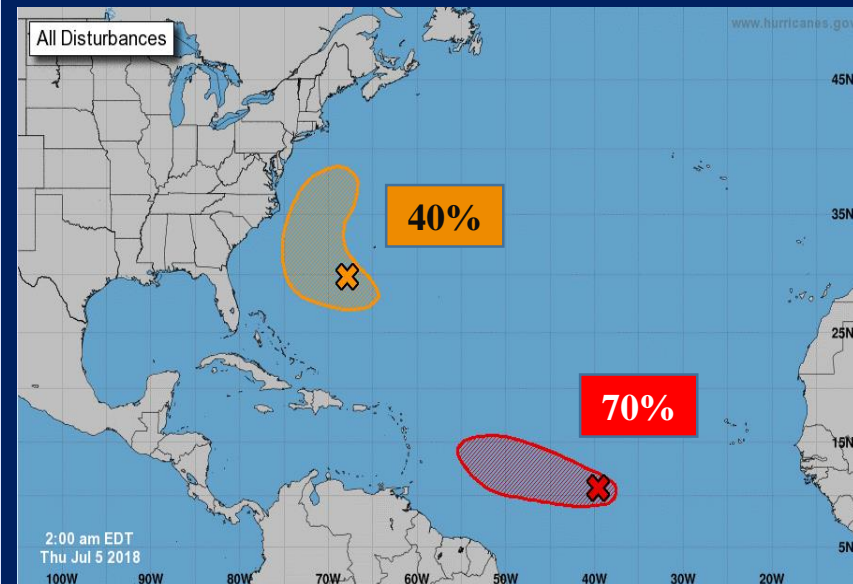
100W 90W 80W 70W 60W 50W 40W 30W 20W

www.hurricanes.gov

## 2-DAY OUTLOOK



## 5-DAY OUTLOOK





**FEMA's Mission:**  
*Helping people before, during, and after  
a disaster.*

# THE HOMELAND SECURITY *NEWS CLIPS*

PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BY BULLETIN INTELLIGENCE [WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS](http://WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS)

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018 5:00 AM EDT

## TODAY'S EDITION

### Leading DHS News

On Fourth Of July, US Cities Celebrate America's Newest Citizens (ABCNEWS) .....	5
On This Fourth Of July, 14,000 Immigrants Become US Citizens (FOX) .....	7
Americans Celebrate July 4 With Fireworks, Parades, Salutes (AP) .....	7
These Immigrants Became American Citizens In The Time Of Trump (CNNINTL) .....	9
How We Became Americans (CNN) .....	10
On Independence Day, Minting Thousands Of New Americans : NPR (NPR) .....	14
July 4th Naturalization Ceremonies (Part 1) (TWCNS) .....	14
'Their Stories Are Now Our Stories' (WTVDTV) .....	14
27 People Became U.S. Citizens In Raleigh On July 4th (RALEIGH) .....	15
25 Take Oath, Become US Citizens In Ceremony At State Capitol :: WRAL.com (WRALTV) .....	16
Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony At Old Salem Results In 49 New 'proud And Excited' U.S. Citizens (GBNR) .....	16
New American Citizens Discuss Long Road To Citizenship (WFMVTV) .....	17
The End Of DOMA Opened A Path To Citizenship For Winston-Salem Speaker (WUNCFM) .....	17
Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony At Old Salem Results In 49 New 'Proud And Excited' U.S. Citizens (WINSJ) .....	18
Citizenship Granted To Dozens At Southport Naturalization Ceremony (WWAYTV) .....	18
200 New US Citizens Fulfill Lifelong Dreams (NYPOST) .....	19
Immigrants Become U.S. Citizens At New York Public Library Ceremony (NSDY) .....	19
Immigrants Sworn In As US Citizens At Ceremony (NWSTVBKN) .....	20
555 Become US Citizens In Phoenix Area Naturalization Ceremonies (KTVKTV) .....	20
Hundreds Become US Citizens On Independence Day In Arizona (KSAZTV) .....	21
New Citizens Welcomed At Naturalization Event In Saguaro National Park (AZDLY) .....	21
20 Tucsonans From 8 Countries Become Naturalized Citizens (KVOATV) .....	21
Hundreds Naturalized Downtown Mesa Ceremony Celebration Of Freedom (AZCENTRAL) .....	22
Connelly: Almost 500 New Citizens Take Oath – 'Faces Replenishing Democracy' (SEAPI) .....	23
Political Turbulence Aside, Becoming A U.S. Citizen Remains An Exciting Prospect (CHARCP) .....	24
44 New US Citizens Welcomed In Ceremony Aboard Battleship (AP) .....	26
'Hell Yeah, I'm An American.' 42 Become Citizens In 4th Of July Ceremony (NJCOM) .....	26
42 People Become New U.S. Citizens Aboard The Battleship New Jersey (COUPOST) .....	27
50 Become Citizens In Ceremony Aboard USS Midway (TIMESSD) .....	28
49 Military Personnel And Family Members Take Citizenship Oath On USS Midway (SDUT) .....	28
Dozens Of US Service Members Become Citizens In Independence Day Ceremony Aboard USS Midway (KNSDTV) .....	29
Fourth Of July Welcomes New U.S. Citizens In Salinas And Beyond (KAZUFM) .....	29
New United States Citizens Sworn In On USS Hornet In Alameda (KGOTV) .....	30
New U.S. Citizens Celebrate At Saratoga Battlefield (ALBANYTU) .....	30
30 New Citizens To Be Sworn In At National World War II Museum (WWLTV) .....	31
Dozens Celebrate Becoming Naturalized Citizens Right Before Inde (WVUETV) .....	31
4th Of July 2018 Special For 30 New US Citizens (WDSUTV) ..	32
Citizenship Ceremony At Old Sturbridge Village Welcomes 152 New Americans (WORCEST) .....	32
Fourth Of July Rite Of Passage Celebrates 58 New Americans (DAYHAM) .....	33
67 Join 'Our American Family' At Monticello Naturalization Ceremony (CHARLOT) .....	34
Immigrants Take Oath At Monticello, Feeling The Weight Of The Past (NYT) .....	34
585 Join Ranks Of U.S. Citizens (LOWELL) .....	35
Fifteen New Citizens Celebrate What It Means To Be American At Bandelier Ceremony (SANTAFE) .....	36

Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony In Portsmouth (AP) .....	37
On Independence Day In Annapolis, 30 People From 22 Countries Officially Become Americans (CAPGAZ) .....	37
48 New Citizens Welcomed To America On July 4 At Carter Presidential Library (WXIATV) .....	38
Twenty Immigrants Become U.S. Citizens In July 4th Ceremony (POSTSTAR) .....	38
Local Restaurateur Can Now Add U.S. Citizenship To Resume (AUGC) .....	39
30 People Become U.S. Citizens During Independence Day- themed Ceremony In Greeley (GREELEY) .....	40
19 People Celebrate First Independence Day As American Citizens (WOFLTV) .....	41
Orlando City's Kay Rawlins Celebrates First Fourth Of July As U.S. Citizen (ORLS) .....	41
31 People Earn US Citizenship (KUAMTV) .....	42

## DHS News

The U.S. Isn't Prepared For The Growing Threat Of Drones (WP) .....	43
Immigrant Mothers Were Moved Outdoors During Kirstjen Nielsen's Secretive Visit To Detention. They Shouted For Help To No Avail. (INTRCPT) .....	44
Dozens Of Immigrant Women Moved Outdoors During Nielsen Visit To Detention Center: Report (HILL) .....	45
Immigrants Say They Were Forced Outside While DHS Secretary Toured Detention Center (NYPOST) .....	45
Migrant Women Reportedly Kept From Speaking To Kirstjen Nielsen As She Toured Facility (HUFFPOST) .....	46

## Border Security

Man Who Pointed Laser At CBP Helicopter Pleads Guilty (TXMONITOR) .....	46
Agents Protect Two Juveniles From Human Trafficking (KYMATV) .....	47

## Aviation Security

TSA Screened A Record Number Of Passengers Ahead Of The Fourth Of July Holiday (WP) .....	47
--	----

## Immigration Policy

Two House Democrats Calling For ICE's Abolition Become Latest Target Of White House Tweets (WP) .....	47
White House Uses Twitter Account To Push Back At Democrats (AP) .....	48
'Abolish ICE' Demands From Democrats Draw Sharp White House Rebuke (WP) .....	49
Markey Also Calls For Replacing ICE (BOSGLOBE) .....	50
Sen. Sanders Calls For Restructuring ICE As Part Of Immigration Overhaul (HILL) .....	50
Newsom Calls For 'fundamental Reforms' For ICE (SFC) .....	51
Some Democrats Want To Go To War Over Abolishing ICE. So Does President Trump. (NBCNEWS) .....	52
'Abolish ICE' Narrative A Recipe For Disaster For Democrats (WT) .....	53
Abolish ICE, Transfer Critical Functions: Rep. Mark Pocan (USAT) .....	54

'Abolish ICE' Campaign Plays Right Into Trump's Hands (USAT) .....	54
Trump: Democrats' Border Stance Will Hurt Them During Midterms (WT) .....	55
Trump Defends ICE Amid Calls For Overhaul From Some Dems (POLITICO) .....	55
Trump Targets MS-13 'Infestation': ICE Will 'Get Them Out' (BREITBART) .....	56
Trump Slams Dems For Call To Abolish ICE (HILL) .....	56
The Left Want To Abolish ICE. What Does That Mean? (WASHFRBE) .....	57
'Abolish ICE' Is A Gift To Republicans (WP) .....	59
Ben Jealous, Maryland Gubernatorial Candidate, Won't Support 'Abolish ICE' Movements (WT) .....	60
Michael Capuano Denies Push To Abolish ICE (BOSH) .....	60
Woman Climbs Statue Of Liberty; Liberty Island Evacuated (WABCTV) .....	60
Woman Tries To Climb Statue Of Liberty In Apparent Protest Of ICE (NYDN) .....	61
Statue Of Liberty Climber Identified As Immigrant Activist (NYPOST) .....	61
Protester Climbs Base Of Statue Of Liberty, Forcing Shutdown Of Landmark (NYT) .....	61
Liberty Island Evacuated As 'Abolish ICE' Protester Attempts To Climb Statue Of Liberty (WT) .....	62
Smashed Nebraska Republican Office Tagged With 'Abolish ICE' Graffiti (BREITBART) .....	62
Protesters Erupt In Violence Yet Again As Sides Battle In Front Of Philadelphia ICE Building [VIDEO] (CALLER) .....	63
Police: 29 Arrests At Protest At Philadelphia ICE Building (AP) ..	63
Some Contractors Housing Migrant Children Are Familiar To Trump's Inner Circle (NYT) .....	63
Attorneys: Parents In Fragile State For Asylum Interviews (AP) ..	65
The White House Tries To Extend Its Cruel Crusade Against Migrant Families (WP) .....	66
Feds Chide Congress For Holding Up Family Unifications At Border (WT) .....	67
The Government Is Refusing To Release New Stats On Kids From Separated Families (CNN) .....	68
DNA Testing Being Done On Separated Migrant Children And Parents, Official Says (CNN) .....	69
ACLU Slaps Trump Administration Over Parent Deportation Form (WP) .....	70
Border Agents Use Fear To Coerce Immigrants, ACLU Claims (CHN) .....	70
ICE Officials Are Pressuring Separated Parents To Sign Deportation Forms (HUFFPOST) .....	71
Parents Facing Deportation Are Asked To Decide Whether Children Go Too (WSJ) .....	72
New Trump Admin Order For Separated Parents: Leave U.S. With Kids Or Without Them (NBCNEWS) .....	72
DHS Slams NBC Reporters Over 'Factually Inaccurate' Story: 'She Doesn't Know What She's Reading' (WASHEX) .....	73

Attorney General Jeff Sessions Rescinds Guidance Safeguarding The Right Of Refugees, Asylum Seekers To Work In The U.S. (MSN) .....	74
Sessions Rescinds DOJ Guidance On Refugees, Asylum Seekers' Right To Work (HILL) .....	74
Trump Administration Must Turn Over Information About 2020 Census Question (REU).....	74
Trump Administration Showed 'Bad Faith' In Adding Citizenship To Census, Judge Says (WT) .....	75
New Connecticut Law Extends Deadline For Young Immigrants (AP) .....	75
Trump Accuses Obama Of Giving Citizenship To 2,500 Iranians (WT) .....	76
Iran's President Is In Europe To Save The Nuclear Deal ... But He Risks Starting A 'Messy Dispute' (CNBC).....	76
30 Years Later, US Downing Of Iran Flight Haunts Relations (AP) .....	77
Scoop: U.S. And Israel Formed Joint Team To Internally Pressure Iran Regime (AXIOS).....	78
Iran's Persistent Protests (WSJ).....	78
Poll: 58 Percent Disapprove Of Trump's Handling Of Immigration (POLITICO) .....	78
Voters Say Both Dems, President Trump Exploiting Immigration (WT) .....	79
Poll – Majority Of White, Black, And Hispanic Americans: U.S. Needs Stricter Immigration Enforcement (BREITBART) ...	79
A Church Put Jesus, Mary And Joseph In 'ICE Detention' To Protest Trump's Immigration Policies (WP) .....	80
Guatemalan Asylum Seeker: People In USA 'Don't Have Hearts' (BREITBART) .....	81
For Trump And 'Angel Families,' A Mutually Beneficial Bond (NYT) .....	81
Almost Half The Country Thinks Donald Trump Is A Racist (HUFFPOST).....	83
Half The Country Thinks Donald Trump Is A Racist. HALF. (CNN).....	84
Democrats Underperforming With Hispanic Voters (NATJO)....	84
Los Angeles Adds \$10M To Aid Separated Migrant Children (HILL) .....	85

## Immigration Enforcement

An ICE Raid Leaves An Iowa Town Divided Along Faith Lines (NYT) .....	86
'My Whole Heart Is There' (NYT) .....	88
At 9 He Lost His Mom To Gang Violence. At 12 He Lost His Dad To Trump's Immigration Policies. (NYT) .....	89
Blaine County Follows Controversial Immigration Policy (IDMEX) .....	91
Attorney: Only Sheriff, Not Supervisors, Can Kick ICE Out Of Pima County Jail (AZDLY) .....	93
Immigrant Lockup To Open On Site Of Destroyed Texas Prison (AP) .....	94
Honduran Man Held In S. Georgia Moved Closer To Son In Arizona (MYAJC).....	94

Texas Sheriff Maurice Cook Defends 'Zero Tolerance' Arrests (MCT).....	95
Palm Beach Manager Reports To ICE Again (PALMBD).....	95
Teen Taken At U.S. Border Tells Of 'Icebox' Cages With 60 Girls (BLOOM).....	96

## Criminal Investigations

Delco Man Convicted Of Hiding Past As Liberian War Criminal (PHILLY) .....	96
---	----

## Secret Service

Secret Service Warns Of Gas Pump Card Skimmers As July 4 Travel Hits (ABCNEWS).....	98
Gas Pump Credit Card Skimmers Set To Steal Ahead Of July 4th Travel, Secret Service Warns (USAT) .....	98
Gas Pump Card Skimmers Targeted In July Fourth Holiday Sweep By Feds (CBSNEWS) .....	99
Fraudsters Are Stealing Credit Card Information At Gas Stations (NYPOST) .....	99
Beware Fuel Pump Credit Card Skimmers, Secret Service Warns (FORTUNE) .....	99
Maryland Man Charged With Assaulting Secret Service Agent (USNEWS).....	100
Man Charged With Assaulting Secret Service Agent Outside White House (WP).....	100
Secret Service Officer Might Have Concussion After Getting Punched At Immigration Rally (CALLER) .....	100
Frisco Wealth Manager Bobby Guess Sentenced To 12 Years For Securities Fraud (DMN) .....	101

## Emergency Response

Judge Extends Housing For Puerto Rican Hurricane Evacuees (AP).....	101
Judge Orders Extension Of FEMA Aid For Puerto Rican Storm Evacuees (NYT) .....	102
Judge Orders Extension Of FEMA Housing Aid To Displaced Puerto Rico Families (CNN) .....	102
Puerto Rican Evacuees Caught Between Eviction Threat And Devastation (REU).....	103
Judge Rules That FEMA Must Extend Shelter Stays For Puerto Rican Evacuees Until July 23 (BOSGLOBE).....	103

## Cyber News

Lawmakers Should Accept Reality That Digital Communication Can Never Be 'Too Secure' (HILL) .....	103
DOJ Report On Tackling Cyber Threats Forthcoming (POLITICO).....	105
The Cybersecurity 202: Big Tech Is Going After California's New Privacy Law (WP).....	107
Ahead Of Midterms, States Scrambling To Fend Off Cyberattacks (CSM) .....	109
Israel Says Hamas Tried To Infiltrate Its Military Using Smartphone Dating, Sports Apps (WP) .....	111
Pentagon Wants 'Baked-In' Security From Vendors (MERTALK).....	111
China's Biggest Cellphone Company Censors Content — Even In The United States (WP) .....	112

The US Won't Let China Mobile Operate In The Country, Citing Risk To National Security (THEVERGE) .....	113	Amesbury Couple Exposed To Novichok Poison Fight For Their Lives (DAYMAIL) .....	129
U.S. Allows ZTE To Resume Some Business Activity Temporarily (BLOOM) .....	114	Police: Nerve Agent Leaves Couple In Critical Condition Near Site Of UK Spy Attack (USAT) .....	133
US To Allow ZTE To Resume Some Operations Temporarily (HILL) .....	114	Police Fear Wiltshire Couple Have Been Exposed To Nerve Agent (GUARD) .....	133
Trump Administration Lets ZTE Partially Operate Until August (POLITICO) .....	115	Two Britons Poisoned With Novichok Nerve Agent Near Where Russian Spy Was Struck Down (REU) .....	135
Cryptocurrency Exchange Theft Surges In First Half Of 2018: Report (REU) .....	115	Two People Poisoned By Same Nerve Agent Used On Ex-spy, Police Say (CNN) .....	135
House Panel's Defense Policy Bill To Require DoD Briefing On Intell Support For Cyber Operations (EXECQV) .....	115	Two Critically Poisoned By Same Nerve Agent Used In Sergei Skripal Attack, Police Say (NBCNEWS) .....	136
Evo Morales' Russia-trained Cyberwarriors Work To Sway Bolivian Election (WT) .....	115	Islamic State Says Leader's Son Killed In Syria (AP) .....	137
To Hackers, We're Bambi In The Woods (NYT) .....	116	Public Enemy Or Savior? An Iraqi City Could Reveal The True Moqtada Al-Sadr (WP) .....	137
What Was On A USB Fan Given At The Trump-Kim Summit? Security Experts Say Nothing — But Don't Plug It In. (WP) .....	117		
Europe's Cyber Threat Hides In Plain Sight (FT) .....	118	<b>National News</b>	
New York Cops Are Hacking iPhones With Secretive \$15,000 GrayKey (FORBES) .....	118	Reserved Trump Celebrates Two Passions: Military And Golf (NYT) .....	139
<b>Terrorism Investigations</b>		Trump Calls On Americans To Remember 'Unbelievable Heroes' Serving Overseas On July 4 (WT) .....	140
Cleveland Terror Arrest: Suspect Was Never 'A Violent Person,' Aunt Says (USAT) .....	119	Trump Touts Progress On Military, Veterans Issues At Armed Forces Charity Dinner (FOX) .....	140
Terrorist Plot Foiled By FBI Was Cleveland's 2nd In 6 Years; A Look Back At The Bridge-bombing Case Of 2012 (PLAINDLR) .....	120	President Trump Honors Veterans During W.Va. Visit (WSAZTV) .....	141
Cleveland Terrorist Arrest A Reminder Of How Much We Owe Undercover Intelligence Operatives: Editorial (PLAINDLR) .....	122	'Salute To Service': Trump Honors Iwo Jima Hero, 94, At West Virginia Event (FOXINSIDE) .....	142
Though Battered, FBI Is Still Keeping Us Safe (AMNY) .....	123	Trump Celebrates World War II Veteran With Playful Jab At Pro Golfer (CALLER) .....	142
Two Years After Mysterious Central Park Explosion, ATF Releases New Photo (WSJ) .....	123	Trump Touts Upcoming Supreme Court Pick (POLITICO) .....	142
A Photo Of A Bag, And A Fresh Push For Clues In Central Park Blast (NYT) .....	123	On Eve Of Independence Day, Trump Salutes Military And 'Tough' ICE Immigration Agents (USAT) .....	143
New York Judge Voids Pakistani Man's Conviction For Aiding Al Qaeda (REU) .....	124	Trump In WV: We Won't Abandon ICE Like Democrats Want To (BREITBART) .....	144
DOJ Moves To Rescind Naturalized US Citizenship Of Chicago Man Who Provided Support To Terrorists (WASHEX) .....	124	Trump Likens Immigration Enforcement To 'liberating A Town' In Combat (WP) .....	144
Former Detainees Call For Inquiry Into UK Role In Torture And Jailing (GUARD) .....	124	Republicans Twice As Likely As Democrats To Say U.S. 'Stands Above Other Countries': Poll (WT) .....	145
Britain's Role In Our Torture And Detention Must Be Investigated (GUARD) .....	125	The Fight Against Trump Is A Battle For Freedom (WP) .....	145
<b>Other DHS News</b>		The Real Meaning Of 'America First' (WP) .....	146
David Brock's Top Researcher Convinced Nazis Infiltrated DHS (WASHFRBE) .....	126	California Separatists To Declare Independence On July 4: 'Stand Up Against American Occupation' (WT) .....	147
<b>Global Media</b>		Trump Hails 'American Heroes' Who Helped U.S. Win Independence (WT) .....	147
Pressure Mounts As Merkel Fine-tunes Immigration Compromise (WP) .....	126	Trump Delivers Independence Day Speech On Twitter (HOLREP) .....	148
Austria Could Be The Next E.U. Country To Tighten Its Borders (NYT) .....	127	Trump Marks Fourth Of July By Hailing 'Noble Sacrifice' Of Military (HILL) .....	148
Two Britons Were Exposed To Nerve Agent That Sickened Ex-Spy, Britain Says (NYT) .....	128	Trump Thanks Military, Hypes Space Force In July 4 Speech (NYPOST) .....	149
U.K. Police Say Two British Nationals Exposed To Nerve Agent Novichok (WSJ) .....	129	At White House Picnic, Trump Thanks Military Families 'For Keeping America Safe, Strong, Proud, Mighty, And Free' (WASHEX) .....	149
		President Trump And First Lady Salute Military At Independence Day Picnic (BREITBART) .....	150

President Trump's July Fourth: Golf, Picnic, And Tweeting (USAT) .....	151	As Trump Weighs Options, Mike Pence Meets With Court Contenders (WASHEX) .....	164
PRESIDENT TRUMP Tops Obama In Approval Numbers At Same Point In His Presidency (GATEPUN) .....	151	'It Looks All-American:' Trump Wants The Whole Package In Supreme Court Nominee (POLITICO) .....	164
NY Daily News Mocks Trump As A 'Clown' On Independence Day (HILL) .....	151	Trump's Supreme Court Search Unleashes Fierce Politicking (POLITICO) .....	166
America Can't Spell: Melania Trump, Others Use #IndependenceDay – Not Independence Day (USAT) ...	152	Liberal Democrats Mount Campaign Against Trump's Supreme Court Nominee By Targeting Two Republican Senators (WP) .....	167
Melania Trump, City Of Boston And Thousands Of Americans Misspell 'Independence Day' On Twitter (NYDN) .....	152	Trump Winnows Down Supreme Court Picks, Focusing On Three (WSJ) .....	169
'Our Most Fundamental Values Are Under Attack': Democrats Issue Bleak July Fourth Statement (USAT) .....	152	Inside The Christian Legal Powerhouse That Keeps Winning At The Supreme Court (WP) .....	169
Democrats' Fourth Of July Message: America Sucks And It's Trump's Fault (BREITBART) .....	153	Lawsuit Linking Trump To Leak Of Democratic Emails Tossed Out On Procedural Grounds (USAT) .....	171
Kamala Harris' July 4 Reminder: 'It Was Eight Immigrants Who Signed The Declaration Of Independence' (WT) .....	153	Judge Tosses Suit Alleging Trump Campaign Conspired With Russia In DNC Hack (POLITICO) .....	172
Gallup: One-Quarter Of Liberals Say 'Extremely Proud' To Be American (BREITBART) .....	154	Anti-Trump FBI Agent May Ignore Congressional Subpoena, His Lawyer Says (CALLER) .....	172
In U.S., Record-Low 47% Extremely Proud To Be Americans (GALLUP) .....	155	FBI's Peter Strzok May Ignore House Subpoena, Says His Lawyer (WASHEX) .....	173
It's Independence Day, But Americans Aren't Feeling So Proud (WP) .....	156	'My Silence Is Broken!': Michael Cohen Says Russian Collusion Charges Against Him Are False (WT) .....	173
Iran Threatens To Cut Cooperation With Nuclear Body After Trump Move (REU) .....	157	Cohen Scrubs Trump Affiliation From Twitter Bio (NYPOST) ..	174
EU Lawmakers Back Plan For European Investment Bank Work In Iran (REU) .....	157	Michael Cohen Drops Trump Attorney Label On Twitter (CNN) ..	175
China Says Will Not Fire First Shot In Trade War With U.S. (REU) .....	157	US Official: Trump Pressed Aides About Venezuela Invasion (WT) .....	175
In Tariff Fight With Trump, China Pulls Plan To Strike First (WSJ) .....	157	Trump Asked Advisers About Invading Venezuela In 2017 (CNN) .....	176
Europe Could Suffer Collateral Damage In US-China Trade War (AP) .....	157	US Senator: Moscow Must Not Meddle In The 2018 Election (AP) .....	177
U.S. Companies In China Think The Government Is Already Messing With Them (WP) .....	158	U.S. Softens North Korea Approach As Pompeo Prepares For More Nuclear Talks (REU) .....	177
German Carmakers Meet U.S. Envoy Over Trade Threat, Sources Say (BLOOM) .....	160	Analysis: After Summit, Pompeo Wants Details From Kim (AP) ..	177
How Trump's Policy Decisions Undermine The Industries He Pledged To Help (NYT) .....	160	How Trump Went From 'Fire And Fury' To Dismissing North Korean Nuclear Advances (NYT) .....	178
Trump's War On The WTO (WSJ) .....	163	For The US, A Frustrating History Of Recovering Human Remains In North Korea (WP) .....	180
Top Supreme Court Candidates' Views On Abortion Under Scrutiny (REU) .....	163	China Electronic Spying Threat (WT) .....	182
The Trump Supreme Court Pick Who'd Pose The Biggest Danger To Abortion Rights (WP) .....	163	Tiananmen Square Hero Challenges China-backed Institutes With Provocative 30-year Memorial (WT) .....	183

## LEADING DHS NEWS

### On Fourth Of July, US Cities Celebrate America's Newest Citizens

By Meena Venkataramanan

[ABC News](#), July 4, 2018

This Fourth of July, nearly 14,000 immigrants become America's newest citizens, swearing the oath of allegiance at 27 naturalization ceremonies across the nation that coincide

with the country's 242nd birthday and the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

"When oath ceremonies are tied to the Fourth of July, it's a message that immigrants believe in this country. It's a beautiful and emotional thing," Joshua Hoyt, executive director of the National Partnership for New Americans, said. "United nations, from Albania to Yemen, are represented in the ceremonies."

Hoyt added that NPNA believes “naturalization is good for the immigrants, their communities, and our nation,” while contributing to “higher incomes” and “social cohesion.”

Wednesday’s ceremonies come on the heels of a July 2 report from NPNA claiming an 88% increase in the backlog of U.S. citizenship applications since 2015, in addition to an ongoing immigration crisis that’s drawn nationwide protest.

The number of people becoming citizens between June 28 and July 10 marks a slight decrease from last year, when nearly 15,000 people took the oath, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, but a sharp increase from 2016, when about 7,000 did so during the same time period.

Cities honor new citizens on Independence Day

Cities participating in Fourth of July citizenship festivities include Philadelphia, Denver, and Tucson – each with its own tradition to celebrate America’s newest citizens.

Drew Angerer/Getty Images

Mosammat Rasheda Akter, originally from Bangladesh, recites the Pledge of Allegiance after officially becoming a U.S. citizen during a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library, July 3, 2018.

Just 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, Tucson would be celebrating 21 new citizens at a ceremony Wednesday in Saguaro National Park.

Cam Juarez, a National Park Service Ranger and coordinator of the ceremony, said that the NPS partners with U.S.C.I.S. to co-host citizenship ceremonies in America’s “most special places.”

“The notion of public lands has a history in the United States of belonging to citizens. NPS protects and preserves these lands, and the ceremony shows citizens that they have a right and responsibility to use them,” he said. “These places now belong to them, and are full of beauty and historical and cultural importance.”

Juarez noted that as the son of Mexican immigrants, he has a personal connection to stories of citizenship.

“When my mom, a farm worker, became a citizen, she wanted all nine of her kids to have the opportunity to go to college,” he said. “That was her vision for citizenship.”

Juarez hopes that celebrating citizenship in a national park will help new citizens recognize the value of America’s public lands.

“Being naturalized in a national park is a key part of American culture,” he said. “What’s more American than taking the oath of allegiance in a national park, which is often called ‘America’s best idea?’”

In Philadelphia’s Betsy Ross House – another historic landmark – the Daughters of the American Revolution would be hosting a children’s naturalization ceremony.

“Every year, we celebrate 13 children – who each represent the 13 original colonies – at our ceremony. The Children of the American Revolution read out the colonies’

names and ring a bell in the order they joined the Union as each child comes up and receives their citizenship certificate,” Patricia Coyne, a regent of the DAR chapter, told ABC News.

Coyne said the ceremony “brings tears to [her] eyes every time as the children of America’s first patriots welcome America’s newest children.”

“They are the future of our nation,” she said, noting she believes celebrating naturalization in Philadelphia is especially significant because “our nation and the concept of citizenship began here.”

Meanwhile, Denver will welcome 30 new U.S. citizens from 18 countries Thursday.

“[The ceremony] reaffirms our city’s emphasis on celebrating immigrants and recognizing their hard work and journeys to become citizens,” Jamie Torres, the director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the City and County of Denver, told ABC News.

Torres noted that Denver is also launching a campaign to provide resources to permanent residents and encourage them to apply for citizenship.

“We have about 30,000 eligible permanent residents who can apply for citizenship. We want to answer their questions, help them sign up, and get them excited about becoming citizens,” she said. “We’re stronger as a city when we’re doing everything we can to help our immigrant population.”

Torres’s favorite part of naturalization ceremonies is finding a “connection” between herself and the new citizens.

“Even if I don’t know them personally, I feel a closeness to them,” she said.

New citizens celebrate July 4th

Rebecca Shi will never forget the day she became a U.S. citizen. And just last Thursday, she watched her mother take the oath of allegiance after 25 years of an “arduous journey” on the road to citizenship.

Shi explained that her mother, a Chinese doctor, came to the U.S. on a visa from Shi’s father, but a court error led a judge to incorrectly rule that Shi’s mother had overstayed her visa.

“The judge filed an order of deportation, even though my mom didn’t overstay her visa,” she told ABC News. “So my mom became undocumented, and worked in Chinese restaurants. The tips she earned put me through the University of Chicago.”

After appealing to Rep. Luis Gutierrez D-Ill., Shi had the deportation order reviewed and canceled in 2013, paving the path to her mother’s citizenship.

“My mom finally has the opportunity to fulfill her profession in the medical field, mentor the next generation of doctors, and fully reach her potential,” she said.

Drew Angerer/Getty Images

A new U.S. citizen holds a flag to his chest during the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library, July 3, 2018, in New York.

Shi recalls her mother studying for the citizenship test “every single day for eight months” and learning English through classes at a high school and community college. But her hard work paid off.

“She got 100% on the test,” Shi, who attended her mother’s citizenship ceremony last week in Chicago, said.

Shi, who now serves as the executive director of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, a group that advocates for federal immigration reform, said she believes the “stakes are higher” today for people hoping to become citizens.

“Immigrants come here to work hard and be the best in their field, though some people call them ‘lazy.’ So, we need to fully participate in our communities. And despite the rhetoric coming from [the Trump administration], we are still a democracy,” she said.

Shi said she encourages people to apply to become citizens, study for the citizenship test, and “save up” to pay the \$730 application fee.

“People who step up decide the direction of our country. So I encourage people to become citizens, register to vote, and vote,” she said.

And Wednesday, Shi’s mother partook in another kind of civic engagement: she and her daughter would be marching in her first Fourth of July parade as a U.S. citizen.

“She told me to buy her American-themed accessories,” Shi said between laughs, “so she could be one of those ladies dressed in an American flag, marching in the parade.”

## **On This Fourth Of July, 14,000 Immigrants Become US Citizens**

By Christopher Carbone

[Fox News](#), July 4, 2018

On this Independence Day, naturalization ceremonies will turn 14,000 immigrants into proud new American citizens.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will welcome them in about 175 ceremonies across the country on the Fourth of July, according to the American Immigration Council.

Despite the Trump administration’s controversial travel ban and rhetoric regarding immigrants, a total of 163,000 people have been naturalized during fiscal year 2018 — a 55 percent increase from the same time last year.

At a naturalization ceremony in New Hampshire, 102 people hailing from 48 different countries became citizens before an audience that included the state’s two senators, Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, and Gov. Chris Sununu.

In New York, Karina Borbon, who arrived in the U.S. from the Dominican Republic ten years ago, explained how it felt to realize her dream.

“I am so excited...It was a long journey but finally, I did it,” Borbon, 32, told the New York Daily News. “Now I have become a part of the nation. I want to help my community and help the people become citizens, too.”

Nusrat Zaman, who was born in Bangladesh and now lives in the Bronx, told the Daily News it was hard to leave her home country and her friends behind.

“New York is so easy to handle, you can go everywhere...You can study here, you can (get) financial aid. In Bangladesh, you have to pay a lot of money (to study),” Zaman, 25, who is studying at LaGuardia Community College and hoping to pursue a career in health administration, told the New York newspaper.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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## **Americans Celebrate July 4 With Fireworks, Parades, Salutes**

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

NEW YORK (AP) — With backyard barbecues and fireworks, Americans celebrated Independence Day by participating in time-honored traditions that expressed pride in their country’s 242nd birthday.

But this quintessential American holiday was being marked with a sense of a United States divided for some, evidenced by competing televised events in the nation’s capital.

From New York to California, July Fourth festivities ranged from the lively and to the lighthearted, with Macy’s July Fourth fireworks and Nathan’s Famous hot dog eating contest.

The day’s events also were stately and traditional, with parades lining streets across the country and the world’s oldest commissioned warship firing a 21-gun salute to mark the 242 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

For some Western states, however, the holiday was a bit more muted as high wildfire danger forced communities to cancel fireworks displays.

Here are some highlights of Wednesday’s festivities:

### **OLDEST WARSHIP**

The USS Constitution has sailed in Boston Harbor and fired its guns again to mark Independence Day.

The world’s oldest commissioned warship still afloat left its berth at the Charlestown Navy Yard on Wednesday

morning. It glided through the harbor to mark 242 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The ship, nicknamed Old Ironsides, traveled to Fort Independence on Castle Island to fire a 21-gun salute. The ship's commander saluted the crowds gathered there.

A Navy sailor on board recited the Declaration of Independence during the cruise.

#### A HISTORIC PARADE

Crowds lined the streets in a Rhode Island town to see what's billed as the nation's oldest continuous Fourth of July celebration. Begun in 1785, the Bristol parade typically attracts about 100,000 people to the seaside town.

This year's was a scorcher: Temperatures hovered near 90 degrees when the parade began late Wednesday morning, and some marchers were treated for heat exhaustion and taken off the route.

#### DUELING CELEBRATIONS

The country's longest-running live national July Fourth television tradition is PBS' broadcast of music and fireworks from the U.S. Capitol's West Lawn. But it's facing new counterprogramming this year from the White House, which is hosting its own concert and view of the National Park Service's fireworks show.

PBS' "A Capitol Fourth" has the bigger stars, including The Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, Pentatonix, Chita Rivera, Luke Combs and The Temptations. It will be hosted by John Stamos.

The entertainers on the 90-minute White House event airing on the Hallmark Channel include singer-songwriter Sara Evans, pianist Lola Astanova and two former "American Idol" finalists. Both shows will include the fireworks display from the National Park Service.

First lady Melania Trump said the White House show would allow Americans to "tune in from their homes and be part of the festivities." PBS declined to comment.

#### LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKIES

In New York, the Macy's fireworks show over the East River promises 25 minutes of sparkle and ahhh plus the West Point Band and entertainers including Kelly Clarkson, Ricky Martin and Keith Urban on NBC's broadcast.

But some places in the American West have canceled their planned July Fourth fireworks because of high wildfire danger, and others are doing drone light displays instead of pyrotechnics.

In Colorado, the wildfire danger forced some communities to cancel their fireworks. However, other shows will still go as planned in Denver, Colorado Springs and Fort Collins.

The small mountain town of Silverton, in southwestern Colorado, called off the fireworks part of its annual Independence Day party, but the rest of Wednesday's celebration is still on, including live music a water fight with

firefighters. Aspen will have a fire-proof drone light display above town.

#### NEW AMERICANS, DIVIDED AMERICA

This was the first Fourth of July that many people were able to call themselves U.S. citizens after participating in naturalization ceremonies across the country.

In New Hampshire, more than 100 people from 48 countries became U.S. citizens during a ceremony at the Strawberry Banke museum in Portsmouth as part of the museum's annual American Celebration. A ceremony also was held aboard the USS New Jersey, where dozens of people from countries including Vietnam and Bangladesh were sworn in.

The new citizens pledged allegiance to a country where some people lament that the ability to debate respectfully the toughest issues of the day seems hopelessly lost.

Several people were arrested Wednesday after hanging a banner from the Statue of Liberty's pedestal that called for abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Later, a protester climbed the statue's base, forcing the evacuation of Liberty Island, and stayed there for hours before police removed her.

#### LGBTQ PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Utah LGBTQ groups marched for the first time in a prominent July Fourth festival in the conservative city of Provo after years of organizers blocking them from participating.

The groups were met by cheers and rainbow flags as they marched Wednesday morning in the America's Freedom Festival parade.

Participants included a center for LGBTQ youth and an organization that works to bridge divides between the LGBTQ community and the Mormon church.

The groups' parade application was initially denied this year by festival organizers who said participants cannot focus on political or social issues but should instead focus on patriotism.

County officials threatened to pull \$100,000 in taxpayer money from the privately organized event until festival organizers struck a deal allowing the groups to participate.

#### HOT DOG EATING HISTORY

Defending champions Joey "Jaws" Chestnut and Miki Sudo held on to their titles at the Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest. They each downed dozens of wieners and buns in front of thousands of spectators at the annual seaside affair at New York's Coney Island.

Chestnut surpassed his previous record by two hot dogs, gobbling down 74 franks and buns in 10 minutes. He won the Mustard Belt and his 11th title.

Sudo held on to her title as the top women's competitor, chomping 37 franks and buns to take home the top prize for the fifth consecutive year.

#### FIREWORKS ACCIDENTS

A large tree branch fell on spectators during a fireworks display in western Illinois late Tuesday, killing two men and injuring five other people. Rock Island County sheriff's officials said dozens of people were sitting near the tree at the time.

In Maryland, a man was hospitalized with "catastrophic injuries" to his hands after setting off fireworks at a large outdoor party where several attendees took illegal fireworks, investigators said.

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## These Immigrants Became American Citizens In The Time Of Trump

By Maya Eliahou And Ray Sanchez

[CNN International](#), July 4, 2018

The emotionally charged ceremonies, which typically occur in the days before and after Independence Day, mark the end of long journeys and the fulfillment of dreams.

They also coincide with President Donald Trump's widely condemned policy of separating families at the border.

Still, the new citizens stood to sing the National Anthem. They read aloud the Oath of Allegiance, printed on a small white card in their citizenship packets. And 140 words later, they were naturalized citizens.

Anika Rieper, 44 (Germany) – Pennsylvania

I would love to share my story about becoming a US citizen, but I have to warn you, it's a pretty boring story. I fell in love with an American and moved here. Eventually we got married and I have been living in the US for almost 16 years. I could have applied for citizenship many years ago but since my home country Germany only allows dual citizenship with special permission, I didn't start the whole process until three years ago.

I feel very much like an American but I'm also German. I'm a Germerican – how German-Americans are called or call themselves. I wanted to officially be a part of America that I call my home.

Being a US citizen means to me that I can make my voice heard by voting. That's the practical level. On an emotional level, it means that I am fully committed to this country and its people.

I think in immigration we need to remember that the US had almost open borders until 1924. Many people will say that they are against illegal immigration and that their ancestors came here legally.

But really, people who came here during the early immigration waves had the same reasons people coming here now have: To seek new opportunities, to escape poverty, persecution, starvation, death. The difference is that you can't just come like you could 100 years ago. The other

difference is that most illegal immigrants are not Caucasian. People have an innate suspicion towards people who look different and aren't part of their "tribe" or "group."

I think that I personally have never encountered any animosity towards me and my nationality – only curiosity. But I am Caucasian and can totally pass as an American. The only time people ask me where I am from is when they hear my accent, hear me speaking German or when they wonder about my name.

Right now, with the separation of children from their parents at the border, emotions run high and there also is a lot of wrong or distorted information out there. Unfortunately, most people have an opinion and seek out only the information that confirms said opinion. So it's very hard to have a discussion about the issue that is rational and considers the facts.

However, separating children from their parents is cruel, and I think it goes against American values. ... We need to take immigration reform seriously and think about different approaches that do justice to the immigrants and to the American people – especially the ones who feel threatened by illegal immigrants.

Mame Fama Fall, 20 (Senegal) – New York

Up until Tuesday, I've been identified by my alien number as a permanent resident. I've been living in America since I was 3 years old. This is the place I call home. I shouldn't have to worry about one day being separated from my family and sent back to where I came from. No one should, for that matter. Upon hearing all of Trump's policies and thoughts on immigrants, my parents knew we had to get our citizenship as soon as possible.

The naturalization process itself was not very difficult, but more time consuming and nerve-wracking. I remember thinking what if I don't pass the test? Or what if something goes wrong with my paperwork? Applying for an application does not always guarantee citizenship.

Fast forward to the day of my ceremony. It didn't hit me that I was a citizen until I received my certificate. The feeling itself was indescribable. From that moment, I knew that I had an obligation to fulfill to my country.

I am now able to exercise all the rights offered to citizens and be a part of a great nation. Yes, America isn't perfect, but I'm so grateful to live in a land that offers so many opportunities.

Silvia Ramos, 30 (Mexico) – Arizona

Becoming a US citizen means security for me and my family. It means opportunities and a new chapter in my life.

For me, it feels like I was given a voice. Even as a legal resident, I never felt like I could voice my convictions as freely as I did in my own country and now I can and I will. Maybe this voice I was now given could help make changes in the future for my fellow immigrants.

Valeriu Vasilescu, 37 (Romania) – Florida

I go by Val. I'm 37 years old and I was born in Bucharest, Romania. Being an American is a dream come true. It's getting to be a part of the greatest nation and having a voice for freedom. I lived in Romania while it was under a strict communist regime, so freedom was nonexistent.

I was told what to wear and what to say and anything American was banned. Going through that experience makes me appreciate being an American more than I could express. I am truly living a dream-come-true life.

I grew up in Romania. My mom was a prima ballerina. She escaped communism. I was able to go to Greece with her. She later sought political asylum and we were able to come to the US with a green card in 1990. I always thought about how wonderful it was to be here and I could see that so many people who were becoming citizens sort of had this glow about them.

I went through the process. It was much easier than I thought. The process was three months. I took the oath in Tampa at the end of April. There were people from 47 countries in one room.

I remember the story about the people from Central America that were denied entrance at the border. Seeing so much of that, it feels like I'm so lucky I'm already here. What's going on with the Trump administration certainly made me more aware of how important it is for me to take this step and become a citizen. Today is the first time in my life I get to celebrate Independence Day as an American citizen.

Yesenia Gonzalez, 20 (Mexico) – Mississippi

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to become a citizen of the country that welcomed me as a little girl – providing me with so many opportunities. I get to officially call it my own.

I've been in the US more than half of my life and it's been my shelter in the toughest and also the happiest moments. This country has witnessed my greatest accomplishments – my marriage and my sons.

I see a lot of hate towards immigrants. Whoever has the opportunity to do it, I hope they all become citizens and represent the Hispanic community. A lot of people are becoming US citizens. I'm so glad people are taking this step. Now we can vote. I wish I could have done this sooner.

Being an American means I now have rights but also responsibilities. I have freedom to pursue what America stands for: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I get to be loyal to the country that's given me so much and I thank my stepfather and mother for bringing us to this great country. My country. We're very blessed.

## How We Became Americans

[CNN](#), July 4, 2018

(CNN)For the Fourth of July, we asked a number of people who came to the United States from countries as far flung as Vietnam, Haiti, Somalia and the Soviet Union to write

about their experiences. What was it like leaving their home countries and traveling so far to a strange land? And how do they feel about America today? Here's what they wrote:

Garry Pierre-Pierre / Haiti: From a soccer game to an airplane ride to a new home in one day

I will never forget the day I left my sun-drenched Caribbean homeland for the bright lights of New York. I was playing an intense pickup match of soccer, as we did most afternoons in soccer-crazed Haiti. My cousin crashed our game when he came for me. I was told to go home to shower because I was going to the United States. Game over.

Garry Pierre-Pierre

What would have been a dream for most Haitian boys my age left me stunned. I walked home dejectedly and was whisked to the airport. It was June 24, 1975. By the evening I found myself in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where I settled quite well in that hardscrabble city of immigrants 20 miles south of New York.

In high school I listened to funk music, Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen and hung out at the Jersey Shore like any normal teenager. My first experience with racism was on the soccer field. As a fierce left-back, I made a hard tackle on an opposing player from Westfield, our rich and snobbish rival. "Get off me you f-----g n---r," he yelled at me as we rolled on the pitch. I followed him across the field and manhandled him so much that he was substituted.

Garry Pierre-Pierre as a child.

Unfortunately, that was the first of many instances when racism would rear its ugly head. One night, while I was walking home from the Florida A&M University campus, a Tallahassee police officer stopped me and asked me to sit in the car awaiting the description of a suspect. They were looking for a 6-foot-2-inch black man. I'm 5 feet, 6 inches.

But despite its flaws, I truly believe America is the greatest nation on Earth, something I impart to my children. The Trump administration has done its best to test Americans like me, those who've chosen to be Americans. The President's unrelenting assaults on immigrants are disturbing.

But, in the words of Woody Guthrie, "This land is your land, this land is my land. ... This land was made for you and me."

Garry Pierre-Pierre is a multimedia journalist and the publisher and founder of The Haitian Times. He is a former reporter for The New York Times.

Ana Rodriguez / Mexico: My dad used to cry with frustration living in America. But we made it

My parents and I swam across the Rio Grande into the United States in 1995 when I was 4 years old. My family, farmers from Zacatecas, Mexico, just couldn't make a living anymore selling their crops because cheaper American beans and corn flooded the Mexican market under NAFTA, so my parents and I went north to the land of opportunity. Once we were on US soil, we flew to Houston and moved in

with my mom's brother, my American aunt and my favorite cousin.

Ana Rodriguez

At the time, we were among the few Mexican immigrants in the neighborhood and no one spoke Spanish anywhere we went. Once, my dad walked a mile to the grocery store with me on his shoulders and cried the whole way. He was frustrated about not being able to speak English, not knowing how to drive, and wanted desperately to go back home where everything made sense. He told me not to worry, that he was just sweating, but I knew what he and Mom talked about when they thought I was sleeping.

I am one of the 11 million undocumented people in the United States facing anti-immigrant policies that threaten to tear me from my family and the country I call home. Despite a lifetime of hearing "go back to Mexico you f---g wetback," which made me feel like I would never be wanted in the place I now call home, and policies that have stripped my parents and me of our humanity and made it harder to survive, my family has thrived nonetheless.

I've earned my bachelor's and master's degrees, my education funded by my mom's housekeeping and my dad's carpet-layer salaries. My parents have purchased their home, the same one we first moved into when we moved to the States, and raised two ambitious kids. But, especially under this administration, our lives could be shattered through deportation at any moment.

My Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals protections are hanging by a thread since the Trump administration eliminated the DACA program with an executive order. By January 2 of next year I will lose my work permit, which has granted me protection from deportation and has allowed me to put my degrees to work.

Now that every undocumented person is a priority for removal, my family is in danger of deportation, despite being regular Americans who have contributed to the United States for a quarter of a century. Instead of being deported, families like mine need a pathway to citizenship. I will keep fighting for immigrant justice until we win.

Ana Rodriguez is an immigrant, social worker and the immigrant justice organizer with Colorado People's Alliance. She is featured in Pabst Blue Ribbon's America Dreaming documentary series, which highlights some of the unique voices of today's ever-evolving America Dream.

Diep Tran / Vietnam: My parents had a choice – flee Vietnam or die. Now we're all on a family vacation in Hawaii together

I'm writing this while sitting in a hotel in Maui, looking over the Pacific Ocean. My parents are upstairs, taking a post-lunch nap. On the other side of the ocean is where I was born: Vietnam. Sitting here, with a piña colada next to me, my sisters at the pool, I'm not sure my parents could have imagined this kind of life for us when we immigrated to

California from Vietnam in 1985 and 1990. My sisters came in 1985, my parents and I came in 1990. It's a complicated story, so I'm only focusing on part of it here.

Diep Tran

They knew whatever awaited them across the Pacific was better than Saigon. My dad had fought in the South Vietnamese army during the Vietnam War, the side the Americans fought with. After the war, he was punished for it by the communists. He was imprisoned for six years. That punishment extended to my father's daughters, who were not allowed to go to college. They were under constant surveillance.

In 1985 my parents placed my sisters, age 11 and 13, on a boat to America by themselves. They could only afford those two spots. My sisters risked disease, rape and death. Their reward was freedom. "We gambled," he told me. "It was better to risk death for the chance at life."

My parents' gamble paid off. My sisters survived, and in 1990 my parents and I followed them. And now we're all in Hawaii together. We immigrated to America and went to college, bought houses, had babies and became the middle class. We are a symbol of how America's generosity can pay itself back tenfold.

Diep Tran and her mother

That doesn't mean those early years in California were easy. My father graduated from university in Vietnam and he spoke fluent English. But in California, he became another nameless Asian man with an accent, working a minimum-wage job. No one chooses to work 12 hours a day until their back and feet ache. No one chooses to leave their homeland to become the "other." No one places their child on a boat – unless they have no choice.

I read about families seeking asylum on our borders and being separated by the American government. There is a toxic assumption behind those actions: that immigrating is like taking an extended vacation, and "those people," all they do is take and they don't give back.

In Vietnam, my parents had no choice except one: "Leave or die."

They chose the unknown, so my sisters and I could have better choices, like what to do tomorrow on vacation: snorkel or hike.

Diep Tran is the senior editor of American Theatre magazine and a freelance journalist.

Lev Golinkin / Soviet Union: The one thing America can do for immigrants that no other country can

I came to America when I was 10 years old, after my family fled anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and spent six months living as refugees in Austria. To this day, I'm amazed at how much we believed in the United States, even though we belonged to the USSR, America's archenemy.

Lev Golinkin

Soviet propaganda churned out lurid images of Americans as greed-consumed imperialists unable to view other people as anything other than subjects. But Soviet Jews whispered to each other different stories – stories of a place where we could live without fear. We knew no one in America, yet we believed the whispers.

And the United States believed in us as well. Even though we were citizens of a land that had nuclear missiles aimed at American cities, Ronald Reagan raised refugee quotas and let us in.

The hardest thing about being an immigrant in the United States is that, unlike people in other countries, most Americans have never dealt with a language barrier or culture shock. This lack of experience makes it all too easy for native-born Americans to conclude that just because you're helplessly trying to navigate a supermarket, you've been helpless your entire life, or because you don't have the language skills to express your opinion, you don't have any opinions to begin with.

Lev Golinkin as a child

Yet despite that lack of experience, Americans are capable of extraordinary empathy toward strangers. Immigrants – true immigrants, not exchange students – seek new lives because their old ones have been destroyed. In most cases, the best you can hope for is a half-life: Your family can live in Sweden for generations, pay taxes, speak Swedish, but you'll never be Swedes. But come to the United States, accent and all, and you can become an American. There's no other place I know of that grants new life like that.

Lev Golinkin is the author of the memoir "A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka."

Rafia Zakaria / Pakistan: America gave me the confidence to speak out against injustice

I first came to the United States in the 1990s. I was only 18 years old, newly married to a man I barely knew, in a wedding others had arranged. The journey from Karachi, Pakistan, to the United States was the first time I'd been on an airplane.

Rafia Zakaria

Lost and bewildered, I did all the things that lost new immigrants do, walking along suburban roads with no sidewalks to get to stores with endless aisles. I befriended the elderly, often the only ones who had time to chat with someone like me – someone from a faraway place, like so many of their own fathers or mothers or grandmothers.

But America really became my own after I left my marriage. America became my refuge. It is where I hid from family disapproval in Pakistan. It is where I signed my first lease, bought my first car and passed the bar exam.

When I returned to Pakistan for extended visits in subsequent years, now an activist, an attorney and a writer, I said all the things that other women were afraid to say,

demanding changes in laws that many believed to be Islamic but that I and other feminists knew to be simply misogynistic.

I said them on the record, in national and international newspapers, my courage whetted by the knowledge that I had a refuge in America. In America, I worked at a domestic violence shelter. I told woman after woman after woman that America would protect them, be there for them, that they need not be afraid.

Today, I am afraid, terrified by two orders. The first is the ban on travelers from five Muslim-majority countries (and two other countries) penned by President Donald Trump (affirmed in *Trump v. Hawaii*). The second is Attorney General Jeff Sessions' order denying asylum to victims of domestic violence. This Fourth of July, I cannot reassure others because I cannot reassure myself.

I am a US citizen, but is that enough? I love America, but does America love me back?

Rafia Zakaria is the author of "The Upstairs Wife: An Intimate History of Pakistan" (Beacon 2015) and "Veil" (Bloomsbury 2017). She is a columnist for Dawn newspaper in Pakistan and The Baffler in New York City.

Abdikadir Negeye / Somalia: I spent 14 years in refugee camps. I am very lucky to be in America

Like so many immigrants, I came to the United States to escape violence, to live freely, to practice my religion, to become educated, and to make a better life for my family and myself.

Abdikadir Negeye

I arrived in the United States in 2006 as a Somali refugee. I was young when my family, two parents and four siblings (two boys and two girls) fled Somalia's civil war. We were lucky, at first, to make it to Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, where I lived for 10 years, followed by four years in another camp. Many were not as lucky, killed by wild animals during their migration or dying from hunger, thirst or disease.

Coming to the United States was not an easy process, with intensive interviews in a second Kenyan camp, Kakuma, and lots of waiting. At the last interview, officers from the Department of Homeland Security approved my family for resettlement. Getting that news was the happiest moment in my life. I was 18.

I'm so thankful to the US government for the opportunity to live safely, have access to a good education, and to become a US citizen, in February 2011. But there have been dark moments.

As a Muslim American, I have seen hatred, discrimination and harassment – several times I have been targeted. This is especially pronounced when dealing with US Customs and the Transportation Security Administration at airports, as it is for so many other minority groups.

As we prepare for July Fourth, a holiday celebrating the freedoms that the Founders fought for, the US Supreme Court has upheld the President's controversial travel ban. It is

a devastating moment for the Muslim community, creating fear and destroying the hopes of many refugees who still wait to follow a path like mine to a new life.

Many of us are afraid to travel. We cannot make our Hajj – pilgrimage – to Mecca, a pillar of Islam, without fear of what might happen when we reach the US border on the way back.

Muslim immigrants are not the only target. Two weeks ago, we watched as immigrant children were separated from their families. This is shameful and inhumane. The United States is no longer the home of the free and the brave. I'm a proud Somali-Muslim American, but I'm concerned about where our country is heading.

In order to thrive and succeed our nation needs to reach out to immigrants with tolerance and acceptance. Only then will America be great again.

Abdikadir Negeye lives in Lewiston, Maine. He is the co-founder and assistant director of Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services, an organization that educates and assists immigrant and refugee youth and their families and promotes a pathway toward citizenship and community engagement.

Juana B. Matias / Dominican Republic: My family came here for a better life. We found it

I came to this country with my parents from the Dominican Republic in search of a better life. The memory of boarding a plane from Santo Domingo to Boston when I was 5 years old feels like it was just yesterday. Although I had my family at my side, it was pretty scary at first. Leaving behind friends, family and a familiar home for a sea of unfamiliar faces speaking a language I couldn't understand was daunting. I can't imagine what it would have been like without my parents.

Juana Matias

We came here in search of better opportunities – and used those opportunities to give back. My parents worked blue-collar factory jobs, often at minimum wage, and saved enough to open their own business and buy a home. I attended good public schools, graduated college and received a law degree by working my way through school.

America gave us those opportunities in the same manner she has given tens of millions of immigrants a chance to achieve the American dream, dating back to our founding. As we celebrate Independence Day, I'm thinking about all the strivers past and present – those people who came to these shores and achieved their American dream, and all those around the world with dreams of doing the same.

Hard work, perseverance, a good education and newfound opportunities gave me a chance to succeed and fueled my determination to help ordinary Americans. It inspired me to run for public office.

Juana Matias (center) with her two brothers

Despite the odds, I became just the second Latina to get elected as a state representative in Massachusetts'

history. Now, I'm running for Congress because as a woman, an immigrant and successful lawyer and state representative, I believe our diversity is what truly makes America great.

Juana B. Matias is a lawyer and a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and a candidate for Congress for the 3rd Congressional District of that state. She lives in Lawrence, Mass.

Joel Martinez / Mexico: America is a precarious place to be an undocumented immigrant

I arrived in Texas from Mexico as a tourist when I was 4; we sought the kind of distance from domestic abuse only a border could provide. Since then, I have experienced a lot of what America has to offer. I've gone from living in poverty with no running water or electricity to graduate school at an Ivy League institution. The catch is, I'm undocumented.

Joel Martinez

My current DACA status places me in a precarious position in the public's mind. I embody both the image of the deserving immigrant who won the American dream through merit – and of the irredeemable lawbreaker who must be sanctioned for failing to win the coveted birthright lottery.

I find both images inaccurate. American institutions throw up obstacles – inhumane immigration enforcement, crushing education costs, an anemic and racially exclusionary social safety net – that makes social mobility highly improbable, especially for an undocumented immigrant. The truth is, I was lucky.

Joel Martinez at 6 years old

At key moments in life when these obstacles limited my ability to live stably or move up despite hard work, altruistic strangers helped push me through. An incredible person took me under his wing and advocated for me when I was applying to college and securing financial grants. He was the reason I was able to go to college at a time when I was anxious about finding a job without documentation. I'm not evidence of the American dream. I'm an exception to a system that only recognizes certain people as legitimate humans.

I dream of an America that lives right there in those moments of altruism, when people don't hesitate to lift others up knowing that we will all be better off for it. I hope that righteous spirit comes soon. We need it.

Joel Martinez is a psychology and social policy Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University where he focuses on discrimination and shared beliefs in social interactions.

Ilhan Omar / Somalia: My grandfather taught me about the promise of America

Fleeing one's homeland is stressful and traumatic; no one should have to experience it. As an 8-year-old girl, I remember feeling lost; Somalia wasn't home anymore, and we didn't have a new one.

Ilhan Omar

Living in a refugee camp in Kenya, basic needs like food, water and education were scarce. But we had hope and we had community, which helped fuel all of us in the camp, and gave us the courage to believe the future would be better.

My grandfather instilled in my siblings and me a sense of hope for what was to come. He presented us with the promise of America, a land of opportunity for all and a country governed by the people, which greatly excited him.

Upon arriving here in America, we quickly realized that the opportunity of which we dreamed was not readily available to many people already living here, let alone us as new Americans. Even though I was only 12 or 13, I remember confronting my family about the tangible disconnect between our dreams and reality. My grandfather and father encouraged me not to complain, but to do something about it. I learned then that if we want a certain world, we must work for it. Later, I learned that this is called organizing.

And so that is what I did. I became a coalition builder. In high school, when I saw racial and cultural divides, I helped form a unity and diversity group — a United Nations of students. I've been organizing ever since.

And two years ago, I became the first Somali-American legislator in the United States. This is something I could never have imagined as an 8-year-old living in a refugee camp. But now my reality could give hope to another young girl who is out there in the world looking for the promise of America.

Ilhan Omar is the assistant minority leader in the Minnesota Legislature and is a candidate for Congress in Minnesota's 5th Congressional District. She lives in the West Bank neighborhood of Minneapolis with her husband and their three children.

This commentary is updated from an earlier version to clarify a passage in Diep Tran's account. Both of her sisters arrived in the US in 1985.

## **On Independence Day, Minting Thousands Of New Americans : NPR**

By Ailsa Chang

[NPR](#), July 4, 2018

On Independence Day, Minting Thousands Of New Americans At a Fourth of July naturalization ceremony in New Hampshire, newly minted American citizens take the oath. They're among nearly 14,000 people across the country who are becoming Americans this week.

On Independence Day, Minting Thousands Of New Americans

At a Fourth of July naturalization ceremony in New Hampshire, newly minted American citizens take the oath. They're among nearly 14,000 people across the country who are becoming Americans this week.

## **July 4th Naturalization Ceremonies (Part 1)**

By Caroline Blair

[Spectrum News](#), July 3, 2018

RALEIGH — In a time when the topic of immigration is at the forefront of debate in our state and country, a special group of people are spending their July 4 holiday this year not only celebrating our country's history, but also becoming U.S. citizens.

Naturalization ceremonies are taking place in three North Carolina cities on July 3 and July 4 this year, as eager immigrants join thousands of other across the country becoming US citizens.

Pamela Wilson with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services sat down with Spectrum News anchor Caroline Blair for a look at the arduous process of becoming an American citizen, and the changes the Department of Homeland Security has undergone in recent years to as she says, "better protect the homeland."

Wilson says the department has strengthened its application procedures, and are more closely examining everyone who applies for immigration benefits. She says more than 11,000 immigrants will become naturalized citizens in North Carolina this year, and this week three ceremonies will join a number of others across the country doing just that.

A ceremony is taking place on July 3 at 4pm in Southport. Then on July 4, they're holding ceremonies at noon in Kinston at Harmony Hall, and Raleigh as part of their downtown Independence Day celebrations.

For more information on those ceremonies and about the process of being a US citizen, visit the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

## **'Their Stories Are Now Our Stories'**

[WTVD-TV Raleigh-Durham \(NC\)](#), July 4, 2018

RALEIGH, NC (WTVD) —

It was a scene that definitely could've pleased the Founders: men and women celebrating their independence while pursuing a life of happiness.

Against a backdrop of a flag-draped State Capital in Raleigh, 27 immigrants completed their naturalization and officially became citizens of the United States. The new citizens emigrated from 17 different countries, including China, India, Mexico and Russia, among others.

Noor Alzuhairi, a native of Iraq, says her new American citizenship gives her both humanity and respect.

"In Iraq, it's so dangerous for my family," Alzuhairi told ABC11. "I love America. That's it. I love America and love the people."

The Oath of Citizenship is the last step of the years-long process of naturalization. Alzuhairi first came to the United States in 2013.

"I've made a life here," she said. "This is my community."

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal government describes attaining citizenship as a "unique bond that unites people around civic ideals and a belief in the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The promise of citizenship is grounded in the fundamental value that all persons are created equal and serves as a unifying identity to allow persons of all backgrounds, whether native or foreign-born, to have an equal stake in the future of the United States."

On its website, USCIS says 90 percent of applicants for citizenship are green-card holders (legal, permanent residents) for at least five years, which also means they are ages 18 or older at the time of filing, be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the five years immediately preceding the date of filing the application, be able to read, write, and speak English and have knowledge and an understanding of U.S. history and government (civics), and be "a person of good moral character."

Applicants must also pass a thorough background check, an interview, plus tests in both English and civics.

Once they are approved and fully naturalized as U.S. citizens, people like Alzuhairi will be able to do the following:

- Vote in federal elections;
- Travel with a U.S. passport;
- Run for elective office where citizenship is required;
- Participate on a jury;
- Become eligible for federal and certain law enforcement jobs;
- Obtain certain state and federal benefits not available to noncitizens;
- Obtain citizenship for minor children born abroad; and
- Expand and expedite their ability to bring family members to the United States.

## 27 People Became U.S. Citizens In Raleigh On July 4th

By Lynn Bonner

[Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#), July 4, 2018

Luis Freile arrived in the United States from Ecuador at age 5 with his family, escaping the financial meltdown in that country that led Freile's parents, who worked in banks, to seek better opportunities.

After 18 years in the country, Freile became a U.S. citizen at a naturalization service that was part of an Independence Day celebration outside the State Capitol on Wednesday.

As Freile stood with his right hand raised to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, he was surrounded by people from other countries making the same promise of loyalty. A man from Germany stood at Freile's left, a Russian

woman stood in front, and a Canadian woman was behind him.

In all, 27 people from 17 countries became citizens in the Raleigh ceremony. Marcos Castells, a supervisory immigration services officer for the Raleigh/Durham Citizenship and Immigration field office, said he had worked in bigger offices in Dallas and Miami, but the Triangle has "one of the most diverse immigrant population I've ever worked with."

More than a dozen of Freile's family and friends sat close by for the ceremony. This is a big summer for the family. Freile's mother, Ines, and one of his sisters are to become citizens in August, and his father, Felipe, took the oath last week.

Felipe Freile, who lives in Apex, said he came to the United States "for the kids, for the freedom." His older daughter, Ana, graduated from Meredith College. His younger daughter, Cynthia, was born in the U.S.

"When you have a good mind and a good vision for the future, the door is open for everybody," Felipe Freile said.

Luis Freile said he grew up "the American way" in Wake County," but with his parents reminding him of Ecuadorian traditions. Freile, 23, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and is studying physical therapy at Duke University.

"It's such an honor and such a privilege to be part of such a great country," he said. "Living here for the last 18 years, I can say that I'm truly excited to be able to vote and to do all the duties of a true American citizen. If I need to serve in the Army for any reason, I'm ready to go."

The oath is heavy on supporting the country in war, whether as a member of the Armed Forces or as a civilian.

The ceremony was drenched in patriotic songs and included a reading from the Declaration of Independence. The Daughters of the American Revolution handed out free flags to a crowd of onlookers. A food truck selling hot dogs parked just out of sight.

It takes years to become a citizen, Luis Freile said, though he was spared a lot of the frustration because his parents scheduled his appointments and told him what he had to do.

"We were always very lucky," he said. "We always did things the right way. But when you do things the right way, you get a great result."

Hundreds of thousands of people from other countries will become U.S. citizens this year at a time when immigration is at the center of political debate. Thousands of families seeking to migrate are being detained at the southern border, and President Donald Trump wants to curb legal immigration.

Freile said people need more facts about immigration. Many people don't understand how long it takes to become a permanent resident and a citizen, he said.

"When you think of immigration, you have to be more informed about who's coming to America and how they're getting here," he said.

Freile's family huddled around him after the ceremony, taking photographs and checking his naturalization certificate.

Later, he planned to celebrate with friends from school.

"As soon as I walk in, we're probably going to sing the National Anthem," he said. "That's what you gotta do today."

Bonner: 919-829-4821; @Lynn\_Bonner

## **25 Take Oath, Become US Citizens In Ceremony At State Capitol :: WRAL.com**

By Adam Owens

[WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#), July 4, 2018

Raleigh, N.C. — Twenty five people took an oath Wednesday in downtown Raleigh to become naturalized citizens of the United States.

At the North Carolina State Capitol and surrounded by in red, white and blue, the 25 people from 17 different countries took part in the ceremony.

"I'm really happy. I am happy I came," said Cesar Cisneros Cifuentes.

Cisneros Cifuentes is from Mexico, but has lived in Durham for years. He works construction, and wants to continue to build a life in this country. He said he wants to work as a mechanic.

"The work ethic here. That you can actually do something," he said, is why he wanted to become a citizen.

Martina Salge, a UNC graduate who was born in Germany, said she wanted a voice in this country's future.

"I wanted the right to vote, that was very important to me. That led me to become a citizen," she said.

Carsten Fuchs, also from German, now lives in Clayton. He said the ceremony meant securing his future, to make sure he could not be separated from his family.

"With all the immigration reform and stuff, it was just time to get off the green card and just become a citizen so there are no questions asked or nothing could happen where you could get deported," he said.

## **Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony At Old Salem Results In 49 New 'proud And Excited' U.S. Citizens**

By Sarah Newell

[Greensboro \(NC\) News & Record](#), July 4, 2018

In 2017, Nancy James became a U.S. citizen. This year, on July 4, her older sister, Rosalem Williams, followed in her footsteps and became an American as well.

The sisters are from the Philippines. Williams, 50, of King, came to the United States 21 years ago, and James, of Walnut Cove, came five years later.

"It feels good being a citizen. There are no limits," said James, who became a citizen at the Old Salem Naturalization Ceremony on July 4, 2017.

She inspired her sister to get her citizenship, as well, at this year's ceremony. Williams was one of 49 people from countries that included Brazil, Canada, India, Iraq, Singapore, South Sudan, Vietnam, Nepal, Iran, Germany and more, who became U.S. citizens Wednesday.

More than 200 people crowded the Old Salem Visitor Center to watch the naturalization ceremony and support the newest citizens of the country on the 242nd birthday of the United States.

"My husband and I helped her review and fill out the forms," James said.

Williams said she was grateful for the support.

"My sister encouraged me," she said. "I love this place."

Williams said that even though she waited years before applying, it was worth it.

"I'm really happy to receive citizenship. I have the freedom to follow the laws and government of the U.S. I've waited for a long time," she said, wiping a tear from her eye.

"This is a happy day for me. I'm like a newborn."

Williams was not the only person becoming a citizen who had waited years. Rehan Riaz of Kernersville came to the U.S. from Pakistan in 1981. He didn't apply to be a citizen until last year, however.

"I applied because of Mr. Trump," Riaz said. "The way things are going, the immigration laws are changing."

He said it's a decision he is glad he made. At the ceremony he wore a patriotic tie, with blue and red stripes and white stars.

"I'm proud and excited," he said of his new citizenship.

It's a decision not to be made lightly.

To become a citizen, applicants are given an English test and a civics test, which asks questions about the country's history and government.

An interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is also required.

If applicants pass, they then are required to attend a naturalization ceremony where they take the oath of allegiance to the United States, declaring that they will support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S., as well as renounce all allegiance to any foreign government.

Couple Daniela Trias Rivas and her husband, Jesus Morales, of Venezuela came to the country 10 years ago after Trias Rivas was transferred for her job as an auditor and obtained a work visa. In 2013, the High Point couple applied for the green-card lottery and were selected, they said. This year they applied for their citizenship after waiting the requisite five years.

"It was a goal we had to apply for this," Trias Rivas said. "It's extra special because it's July 4."

She said she was most looking forward to the privilege of voting, as well as getting a passport as an American. Morales said he was also looking forward to being able to vote as an American.

"There are lots of opportunities as citizens," he said. "This country opened its doors to us. We're very grateful."

## **New American Citizens Discuss Long Road To Citizenship**

By Hannah Brewer

[WFMY-TV Greensboro \(NC\)](#), July 4, 2018

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (WFMY)-- It was an exciting day for Melvin Chua, who finally became an American citizen after 26 years.

He was one of 49 people to be naturalized on Wednesday at a ceremony at the Old Salem Visitor Center.

"I was actually a little bit surprised at how emotional I got during the ceremony. I told myself I wouldn't cry, but a got a little teary-eyed you know, midway through the ceremony," says Chua.

His long journey began in 1992 when he moved from Singapore to the United States to go to school at Arizona State University. He says getting a work visa after graduating was a challenge.

"A lot of people don't want to sponsor you for the H-1B. As soon they find out that they have to do that, that's a lot of hassle. So that's the biggest hurdle," says Chua.

But the obstacles of life don't go away after becoming an American citizen. Ask Anton Moussaev who was naturalized at last year's ceremony.

"Life is never easy. I mean this is what you make of it. You know this is just the beginning for all of them, depending on what their you know goals, agendas, hopes and dreams. You know, you have to work hard for everything, nothing is easy," says Moussaev.

As for Chua, he's still in awe of his new citizenship. "Every time I hear the word American citizen, welcome, I just get all choked up," says Chua.

## **The End Of DOMA Opened A Path To Citizenship For Winston-Salem Speaker**

By Rebecca Martinez

[WUNC-FM Chapel Hill \(NC\)](#), July 4, 2018

It's Anton Moussaev's birthday. Well, he was born in the Soviet Union in March 37 years ago, but he officially became an American on July 4, 2017 at a naturalization ceremony at Old Salem. So, he said that's his "second birthday."

Anton will celebrate by giving the keynote speech at the ceremony in Old Salem today, where 50 new American citizens will become naturalized. He said he's really nervous and excited to share his story with the crowd.

"Now when you're in Old Salem, I mean, it just screams 'America' at every corner, and that's how it initially started," he said.

Old Salem is, fittingly, where Moravian settlers first turned Independence Day into a party in 1783. Instead of a basic proclamation, the German Protestant immigrant community decided to throw a proper celebration, with music and everything. The living museum there partners with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to host a naturalization ceremony there every year.

Anton came to Winston-Salem in 2006, but it would take him 10 years, 6 months and 8 days to become a citizen.

Anton followed his parents to the U.S. from Russia. His dad, Alexander Moussaev, was an Olympic gymnastics coach. Both of Anton's parents became naturalized citizens, but they were unable to petition for his citizenship because he was an adult. Soon after arriving in the Triad, Anton fell in love with a local guy named John Rincic and committed to staying: First on a tourist visa, then on a student visa when he enrolled at UNC-Greensboro. Moussaev then became a real estate agent. He admits that his documentation lapsed before he was able to establish legal permanent residency.

"I do not wish for my story to be one that glorifies those who are undocumented or became undocumented, but rather I hope it is an example as to why immigration reform is important, and why it should be focused on family unity, fairness and equality."

After four years together, Anton and John married in Washington, D.C. surrounded by family and friends. They went to D.C. because, at the time, same-sex marriage was illegal in North Carolina and in many other states. That's also why John couldn't petition for his husband's citizenship.

That changed in 2016, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Defense of Marriage Act. The DOMA decision legalized same-sex marriage across the country, and opened a pathway to citizenship for Anton.

"It was a great victory for us, and it was a great victory for the entire country," he said.

Anton applied for legal permanent residency so he could legally stay in the country with his American husband, and he received a green card. After a three-year mandatory waiting period, Anton was able to apply for citizenship in late 2016.

The following June, he had his final interview with federal officials. Anton said he was especially nervous because he really wanted to be naturalized at the Old Salem July Fourth ceremony, the one that "screams America." At long last, things worked out.

Anton says he's felt like an American for a long time, but now things are different because he can vote. He's confident that his vote is worth more in the United States than in was in Russia. He said he thinks his path to citizenship was strewn with unnecessary obstacles, and he's hopeful that the

U.S. will reform its immigration policies. He said he believes many of the people who will take the Oath of Citizenship in Winston-Salem today would agree.

## **Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony At Old Salem Results In 49 New 'Proud And Excited' U.S. Citizens**

By Sarah Newell

[Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#), July 4, 2018

In 2017, Nancy James became a U.S. citizen. This year, on July 4, her older sister, Rosalem Williams, followed in her footsteps and became an American as well.

The sisters are from the Philippines. Williams, 50, of King, came to the United States 21 years ago, and James, of Walnut Cove, came five years later.

"It feels good being a citizen. There are no limits," said James, who became a citizen at the Old Salem Naturalization Ceremony on July 4, 2017.

She inspired her sister to get her citizenship, as well, at this year's ceremony. Williams was one of 49 people from countries that included Brazil, Canada, India, Iraq, Singapore, South Sudan, Vietnam, Nepal, Iran, Germany and more, who became U.S. citizens Wednesday.

More than 200 people crowded the Old Salem Visitor Center to watch the naturalization ceremony and support the newest citizens of the country on the 242nd birthday of the United States.

"My husband and I helped her review and fill out the forms," James said.

Williams said she was grateful for the support.

"My sister encouraged me," she said. "I love this place."

Williams said that even though she waited years before applying, it was worth it.

"I'm really happy to receive citizenship. I have the freedom to follow the laws and government of the U.S. I've waited for a long time," she said, wiping a tear from her eye.

"This is a happy day for me. I'm like a newborn."

Williams was not the only person becoming a citizen who had waited years. Rehan Riaz of Kernersville came to the U.S. from Pakistan in 1981. He didn't apply to be a citizen until last year, however.

"I applied because of Mr. Trump," Riaz said. "The way things are going, the immigration laws are changing."

He said it's a decision he is glad he made. At the ceremony he wore a patriotic tie, with blue and red stripes and white stars.

"I'm proud and excited," he said of his new citizenship.

It's a decision not to be made lightly.

To become a citizen, applicants are given an English test and a civics test, which asks questions about the country's history and government.

An interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is also required.

If applicants pass, they then are required to attend a naturalization ceremony where they take the oath of allegiance to the United States, declaring that they will support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S., as well as renounce all allegiance to any foreign government.

Couple Daniela Trias Rivas and her husband, Jesus Morales, of Venezuela came to the country 10 years ago after Trias Rivas was transferred for her job as an auditor and obtained a work visa. In 2013, the High Point couple applied for the green-card lottery and were selected, they said. This year they applied for their citizenship after waiting the requisite five years.

"It was a goal we had to apply for this," Trias Rivas said. "It's extra special because it's July 4."

She said she was most looking forward to the privilege of voting, as well as getting a passport as an American. Morales said he was also looking forward to being able to vote as an American.

"There are lots of opportunities as citizens," he said. "This country opened its doors to us. We're very grateful."

## **Citizenship Granted To Dozens At Southport Naturalization Ceremony**

[WWAY-TV Wilmington \(NC\)](#), July 3, 2018

SOUTHPORT, NC (WWAY) – Gaining U.S. citizenship is not easy for thousands who come into our country.

Today, nearly 80 new Americans were given legal status in Southport after months and even years of going through the process.

There are a host of eligibility requirements that take 3 to 5 years of living in the U-S before someone can begin the naturalization process.

After applying and testing, these people take that oath of citizenship.

"I'm very excited and proud and honored to actually now vote one day here," said Nadya Keyser who came to the country with her husband to be and now teaches at New Hanover County High School.

For 23 years Southport has hosted a naturalization of immigrants who have lived and work in the U.S. and applied to gain their citizenship.

It's that path to citizenship that has caused a major political and humanitarian debate in our country.

"I think it's something that the entire nation is having a conversation about with the intense fear that the undocumented immigrants have of being caught and deported back to their country or where they came from," said Daniel Cortes Mendez.

The political climate motivated Aurelio Cortes Rivera to seek legal status after decades of being a permanent resident on a green card.

"I decided to get involved and the only way to get involved is to have citizenship and have the right to vote," said Cortes Rivera.

His family now hoping his months of work to gain citizenship motivate other relatives given the tough stances on immigration ongoing.

"Maybe you have noticed, there is a small immigration issue going on in our country," said district court judge Jason Disbrow. "There are no group of Americans better equipped than you 78 folks to get involved."

"There's definitely hope for anyone that is willing to go through the process," said Cortes Mendez.

## **200 New US Citizens Fulfill Lifelong Dreams**

By Lorena Mongelli And Tamar Lapin

[New York Post](#), July 3, 2018

They came to the Big Apple from 50 countries — some living here for decades — and on Tuesday, they fulfilled their dream to become American citizens.

Waving the Stars and Stripes during a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library in Midtown, 200 newly minted US citizens beamed and cheered after taking an oath to seal their new official status.

"I was waiting for this moment for a long time," said Joseph Pincay-Chan, a 29-year-old who moved to the Bronx from Ecuador in his youth to live with his grandmother.

"This is a big step. I feel relieved," said Pincay-Chan, who works as a manager at a McDonald's. "I think I'll have more rights now."

Of the hundreds of new citizens, 86 of them came from the Dominican Republic.

"It is an important day for me," said 72-year-old Milagros Rodriguez, who moved to the city from the Caribbean nation 34 years ago. "I'm very emotional."

Also from the Dominican Republic was 24-year-old Smerly Canela, who lives in the Bronx and now plans to follow her dream of becoming a medical assistant.

"This will really help me a lot," she said.

For Serife Saya from Turkey, the freedom she felt in America is what drew her in.

"I'm very excited and happy. I love the United States," Saya said. "Freedom is very important to me."

"People here say what you think," the 64-year-old Manhattanite said. "In my country, sometimes there is a limit." New US citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Getty Images

The group listened to a pre-recorded message from President Trump as part of the ceremony. "No matter where you come from or what faith you practice, this country is now your country," Trump said in the message.

"Our history is now your history. And our traditions are now your traditions."

"You have pledged allegiance to America. And when you give your love and loyalty to America, she returns her love and loyalty to you," he said.

Some of the new citizens said they hurried up their bid to officially become American citizens because of Trump's rhetoric about immigrants, especially those coming across the border from Mexico.

Anait Piloyani, a 78-year-old former Mexican consulate worker, said she had been here 40 years and finally decided it was time to make things official.

She also defended her former home.

"I know Mexico is a good country, and [its residents] come here to take jobs other people don't want," she said.

Piloyani was one of four people from America's southern neighbor to be granted citizenship at the ceremony.

"I love everything about this country and city — the museums, the culture. Everything except the crime," she said.

Additional reporting by Rebecca Liebson

## **Immigrants Become U.S. Citizens At New York Public Library Ceremony**

By Grace Moon And Lisa L. Colangelo

[Newsday \(NY\)](#), July 3, 2018

Clutching small American flags, a crowd of 200 citizenship candidates gathered in a stately room at the New York Public Library on Tuesday to share a life-changing moment together.

The group, which hailed from 50 different countries, became naturalized citizens.

"I feel proud today," said Mosammat Rasheda Akter, 33, of the Bronx as she clutched her 7-month old daughter Fahamida. "It feels good to be a U.S. citizen."

Akter, who is originally from Bangladesh, and other candidates had to meet a number of requirements, including demonstrating the ability to speak, read, write and understand English and being a lawful permanent resident as well as a person of "good moral character."

The candidates were cheered by family members as their names were called and they received certificates. Many said they were not deterred by anti-immigrant sentiments that have risen across parts of the U.S.

"I want to vote, I want to save the country," said Pascaline Beniakrou, 39, who came from the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa. "And I like this place a lot. It's a peaceful place where if you work hard, you can have a life here."

Becoming a citizen means 19-year-old Dervan Victorin of St. Lucia can move from the U.S. Army Reserves to active duty.

"Words can't explain what I am feeling right now," said Victorin, who lives in the Bronx. "I'm overwhelmed. It's a great feeling."

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The emotional ceremony was soaked in patriotism, from the singing of the national anthem to the administration of the oath of citizenship and finally the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of each candidate was read out loud, as well as the names of each country represented in the room. A brief congratulatory video from President Donald Trump was screened along with another video to the song "God Bless the U.S.A."

"As we approach July Fourth, it's a reminder of where we began," New York Public Library president Tony Marx told the crowd.

"The reason why New York is the capital of the world is because it, more than any other place in the world, has always said 'come, come,'" Marx said.

According to officials, the majority of new citizens at the ceremony came from the Dominican Republic, followed by Bangladesh, China, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

"You join a diverse and distinct group of naturalized citizens, a group that includes outstanding contributors to our society," said Timothy Houghton, deputy district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' New York District Office. He rattled off a list of notables that ranged from Albert Einstein and Madeleine Albright to Ryan Reynolds and Elizabeth Taylor.

"But it's also important to honor the contributions of hundreds of thousands of naturalized citizens whose names are not in the papers and don't have stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame but do work that's just as important: scientists, teachers, Wall Street executives, professional opera singers," Houghton said.

"I encourage you to use your talents to be active citizens and give back to your community and your new country through civic participation and service."

## **Immigrants Sworn In As US Citizens At Ceremony**

[News 12-TV Brooklyn \(NY\)](#), July 3, 2018

NEW YORK –

A group of New Yorkers celebrated officially becoming American citizens Tuesday.

Two-hundred immigrants from many different backgrounds, ethnicities and religions became citizens at a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library.

Each year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services swear in about 70,000 people, hosting close to 175

ceremonies around the country during the week leading up to Independence Day.

This was the fifth year the ceremony took place at the city's main branch of the New York Public Library.

Fifty countries were represented at the ceremony, with the Dominican Republic being the most prevalent.

## **555 Become US Citizens In Phoenix Area Naturalization Ceremonies**

By Lauren Reimer

[KTVK-TV Phoenix](#), July 4, 2018

PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) –

On this very patriotic holiday, hundreds of new Americans are celebrating for the first time as U.S. citizens.

On the Fourth of July, two naturalization ceremonies were held in the Valley. One was in Mesa, and one in south Phoenix.

In all, 555 people from nearly 100 countries earned their citizenship.

"Today's a very important day. It's sort of a relief to become a U.S. citizen as opposed to just simply being a resident," said Racheal Mangini, originally from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

For Mangini, this day was nine years in the making.

But how did she and the others get to that point?

If you were not lucky enough to be born here, the journey to citizenship is often a long and sometimes difficult one. It takes time, money and good behavior to make it all the way to naturalization.

At a time when our country is debating immigration policies, we sat down with an immigration attorney, Jose Montaño.

"It is very complex and is getting worse," said Montaño.

He explains every case is unique. For those who enter the country undocumented, things get very complicated. Montaño says DACA recipients have no path to citizenship,

But for those who are eligible, the most common path begins with getting "lawful permanent resident status" also known as the green card.

If you have an immediate family member (a spouse or an adult child) already a U.S. citizen or are coming here to work, you can apply for \$1,225.

For the next five years (three if you're the fiancé(e) of a US citizen) green card holders must be on their best behavior. Even a minor crime can ruin their chances of citizenship forever.

"Those five years is actually like a probation term. You have to show good moral character," said Montaño.

After that waiting period, you can apply for citizenship. "You have to be 18 years old, you need to speak, write and understand English. You have to know about the history of the United States and government," said Montaño.

That application is typically another \$725.

Often, people like to hire an attorney to help.

"Right now for a complete naturalization case, an attorney will charge between \$4,000 and \$6,500, from the beginning to the end," said Montaño.

If you've been keeping track, that's a total of \$8,450.

Montaño says many give up long before that.

"People sometimes don't do it because they don't have the financial means to do it, or people just don't do it because they believe they're going to return to their country of origin," said Montaño. "They just continue to reapply for their Green Card without filing for naturalization."

"I do understand the need to vet everyone and to ensure that the people who are accepted into this society and become citizens are in fact people that we want to welcome," said Mangini.

But if all goes as planned, a person will one day get to go through a ceremony like the ones held Wednesday, giving them all the rights and protections of a full U.S. citizen.

"The pride of belonging, just being in America, all the freedom that they talk about, it's such a great feeling. You can't get in anywhere else," said Fabiola Zaragoza, originally from Mexico.

## **Hundreds Become US Citizens On Independence Day In Arizona**

[KSAZ-TV Phoenix](#), July 4, 2018

PHOENIX (KSAZ) – Today, our great nation celebrates the very start of becoming the land of the free and the home of the brave, but something also really special is happened to the people who make up this great nation.

Today, 555 individuals become new U.S. citizens right here in the Valley.

"I come from Mexico, you know, I don't have much family on this side and it's a start for not just me, but for everybody else," Kevin Hernandez said. "It's a start for everybody in my family."

As some celebrate the nation's 242nd birthday, others have held onto the want, the will, and the hopes of becoming an American... that is, until today.

"Very special, a moment that a lot of people wish for and dream of," Hernandez said.

Nineteen-year-old Kevin Hernandez says he's proud to be an American. Today, he's one of the new U.S. citizens welcomes to America at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Today's naturalization ceremony is one of 175 that will take place across the country between June 28 and July 10.

"Every person that walks into our USCIS office has a great story to tell in our view," Maria Elena said. "This is the

best part of our job... seeing these people go through the journey and now become United States citizens."

## **New Citizens Welcomed At Naturalization Event In Saguaro National Park**

By Shaq Davis

[Arizona Daily Star](#), July 4, 2018

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services welcomed 21 people as new citizens at a naturalization ceremony in Saguaro National Park on Wednesday.

The new citizens came from Brazil, Chile, Iraq, Canada, India, Mexico, Nepal, and the Philippines, a U.S. National Park Service news release said.

Leah McGinnis, superintendent at Saguaro National Park, welcomed the citizens at the event.

"It is an honor to continue the tradition of hosting this special event here at Saguaro," she said. "It is especially humbling to share in the emotions of these individuals as they become citizens of the United States of America."

After the conclusion of the ceremony, new citizens, friends and their families celebrated at the Red Hills Visitor Center at the park.

"It's an exciting day, not only because it's America's birthday, but also because we are now citizens of these United States," a new citizen said.

The National Park Service has partnered with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to hold naturalization ceremonies at parks across the country.

"These historic and picturesque sites provide an ideal backdrop for citizenship ceremonies," said Cam Juárez, community engagement coordinator for Saguaro National Park. "Where new citizens can learn about and reflect on American identity and the responsibilities of citizenship."

Contact Star reporter Shaq Davis at 573-4218 or [sdavis@tucson.com](mailto:sdavis@tucson.com)

On Twitter: @ShaqDavis1

## **20 Tucsonans From 8 Countries Become Naturalized Citizens**

By Lupita Murillo

[KVOA-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#), July 4, 2018

TUCSON – Today is about more than celebrating America's 242nd birthday.

Twenty Tucsonans from eight different countries officially became United States citizens.

The ceremony took place at the Saguaro National Monument Park.

Al Gallman, head of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, said people come to the United States for freedom, security and for opportunities for a better education for themselves and for their children.

Ivan Romero is well aware of that, he told News 4 Tucson this country has changed his life and why it's an honor to be here and to receive his citizenship.

He's been here five years and now serves with the National Guard.

For Jin Paomeu, who was born in Indonesia, is now stationed at Ft. Huachuca.

Paomeu said he's very honored and proud to serve in the biggest military in the world.

Sangita Pawar told the audience it's been a long road.

She came to Tucson to attend graduate school at the cancer center and never returned to India.

Pawar credited her family and friends for their love and support who helped her become who she is today.

She added this country has given her a lot and hopes to give back now in an official capacity.

Those attended also saw a video message from President Trump who congratulated them on becoming U-S citizens.

## **Hundreds Naturalized Downtown Mesa Ceremony Celebration Of Freedom**

By BrieAnna J Frank

[Arizona Republic](#), July 4, 2018

Hundreds of people became new U.S. citizens on Independence Day during a ceremony in downtown Mesa just hours before the July 4 fireworks.

It was the fourth consecutive year that the Mesa Celebration of Freedom festival included a naturalization ceremony, which this year brought together 313 people from more than 50 different countries.

Sathish Banba was at the ceremony to support his wife from India, who started the application process nine years ago.

Banba was sworn in as a citizen just last week after a 17-year process that began when he came to the U.S. for his masters degree in 2001.

"(There's) no more insecurity living here, it's all good," Banba said. "This is a great country, and it's my country now. It's awesome."

The future citizens walked in to the ceremony just before 6:15 p.m., welcomed by patriotic music played by a large orchestra set up toward the front of the downtown venue.

The group, representing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Afghanistan, India, Japan and Mexico, joined in singing the "Star Spangled Banner," with the entire crowd erupting in applause as the anthem ended.

Then came the long-awaited moment as the candidates took the citizenship oath, officially renouncing their allegiance to any other country and pledging to defend the United States

from that moment forward. With that, they were declared official citizens of the United States.

The new citizens and their loved ones in attendance cheered and waved flags as the announcement was made, with some in the audience starting a "USA! USA!" chant that spread through the venue.

A pre-recorded video message from President Donald Trump was played on two screens, with the president welcoming the new citizens to the United States and informing them of the rights and responsibilities they would now possess.

"The majority of Americans are good, hard-working, caring, community-organized, community-minded, friendly people."

Kerry Conrado, friend of a British citizen becoming an American

"You now share the obligation to teach our values to others, to help newcomers assimilate to our way of life, and to uplift America by living according to the highest ideals of self-governance and its highest standards," Trump said in the video.

"We welcome you into our national family, we applaud your devotion to America," Trump said. "And we embrace the wonderful future we will have together."

The ceremony's keynote speaker was Mesa Mayor John Giles, who didn't shy away from mentioning the anti-immigrant debate.

"We are a country of immigrants," he said. "It is the diversity resulting from immigration that has made this country strong."

Giles encouraged the new citizens to respond to negative attitudes toward immigrants with the "great American tradition of tolerance."

Kerry Conrado flew in from Dallas to support his friend, a British citizen becoming an American on Independence Day.

His friend, Conrado said, has lived in the U.S. for around 20 years and decided to apply for citizenship within the last few years.

Conrado said his friend is excited and hopeful about becoming an American, despite her naturalization coming at a tumultuous political time.

He said Wednesday's ceremony showed what the United States is truly about.

"The MAGA (Make America Great Again) is this," he said. "It's not the stuff we're seeing out in the political environment today."

Conrado said he wants immigrants to know that they are welcomed in the United States, despite what they might hear.

"We (Americans) are nothing like what you see on the TV," he said. "The majority of Americans are good, hard-

working, caring, community-organized, community-minded, friendly people.”

Earlier in the day, South Mountain Community College in south Phoenix had also held a naturalization ceremony that welcomed 231 candidates as official U.S. citizens.

The ceremony recognized a handful of candidates who served in the U.S. military, five of whom were active-duty members.

Speakers also recognized the countries represented by the new citizens, which included Venezuela, Iran, Iraq and Sudan, which had been subject to travel bans signed by Trump last year.

Arizona Republic reporter Pamela Larson contributed to this report.

## **Connelly: Almost 500 New Citizens Take Oath – ‘Faces Replenishing Democracy’**

By Joel Connelly

[Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), July 4, 2018

Almost 500 newly minted Americans from 84 countries, two dozen of them already serving in the U.S. military, swore their oath of citizenship in a moving 34th annual Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony at the Seattle Center.

“Every year I get to see the faces that are replenishing democracy,” Gov. Jay Inslee said in a welcoming speech.

The ceremony took place against a backdrop of tense times, with the Trump Administration’s Zero Tolerance policy having separated immigrant parents from their children at the southern border. Thousands have demonstrated against that policy, here and across the country.

Every mention of America’s “diversity” got a rousing roar of approval from the crowd.

Yet, the citizens sworn in Wednesday are those who have played by the rules, taking and passing a difficult test. “They give you 100 questions, but you do not get asked all of them – You have to know everything,” joked Nicometes Gomez, the lone new citizen from the Central American nation of Belize.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., joked that the new citizens already know her as “one of the two possible answers to question 20: ‘Who are Washington’s two U.S. Senators?’”

“Your country is a country of immigrants,” Cantwell told them. “Despite what you may hear on the news, that is more true than ever.” She quoted President John F. Kennedy: “Every immigrant has strengthened American life.”

RELATED: From the Archives: Seattle celebrates the Fourth of July

Satit Chivnpatanathorn, an immigrant from Thailand, celebrated now being part of “a great country, of equal

opportunity, of free speech.” In Thailand, criticism of the king can get you a prison sentence.

The Seattle Center ceremony shows off the best of the new citizens’ country. The Navy Band Northwest plays rousing Sousa marches as warmup, while the Total Experience Gospel Choir sends the crowd on its way with the refrain: “Now is the time for all God’s people to come together in unity.”

A popular feature has Native American storyteller Gene Tagaban, musicians and dancers in headdress doing a performance entitled “The Spirit of We the People.”

Tagaban touched on family separation, saying of his own people: “At one time our children were stolen on this land, and we persevered.” A moment later, pointedly, he added: “Although many of the children are still stolen, we will persevere.”

A daughter of immigrants, Sonja Vuckov Roxsman, sat in her wheelchair waving an American flag, and said her presence at the Center was a statement.

“I am a first generation daughter of an undocumented immigrant,” said Roxsman. “I am here to celebrate all immigrants, documented and undocumented, all refugees and all those seeking asylum. I would not be here but for my father, who immigrated from Yugoslavia in 1927.”

Gov. Inslee is an animated presence at the Center each year. He was seen pounding a drum during “The Spirit of We the People.” He challenged Nicometes Gomez, who stood out wearing turban-like head gear: “Will you help me fill up that hat with ballots this year?”

“I’ve got to start working on that,” Gomez said afterward, smiling broadly.

Inslee took pointed pokes at Zero Tolerance. Among sources of state pride, along with Mt. Rainier and Microsoft, he listed Washington being “the first state in the nation to sue that we do not ban Muslims.” Attorney General Bob Ferguson mounted a successful legal challenge to Trump’s Muslim Travel Ban No. 1.

“Americans will never be separated from liberty and our children will never be separated from their parents,” the Governor declared.

(A recorded statement from President Obama used to be part of the Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony. No statement from President Trump was offered in 2017, and none this year.)

While picking up citizenship papers, the new citizens were given an opportunity to register. “Every one of you who are 18 will be able to register and vote in this August’s primary election,” King County Executive Dow Constantine told them.

America has its lure. Why is she becoming a citizen? “Well, for a better life, like everyone,” replied Olga Benzel, a new citizen from Ukraine. “I have some dream of America,” said Kim Taewan, an immigrant from Korea.

U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Tallman was doing the swearing-in honors for the 10th consecutive year. "One thing that makes this nation great is its diversity – today we celebrate that diversity," Tallman told the new citizens. He detected in the crowd "a shining optimism."

Tallman is about to retire and take senior status on the federal bench. The swearing-in duty is much sought. Will Tallman continue to preside? "If they let me," he joked.

SeattlePI.com blogger/columnist Joel Connelly can be reached at [joelconnelly@seattlepi.com](mailto:joelconnelly@seattlepi.com)

## Political Turbulence Aside, Becoming A U.S. Citizen Remains An Exciting Prospect

By Adam Manno

[Charleston \(SC\) City Paper](#), July 4, 2018

Things have moved quickly for 21-year-old Tumaini Peres.

A year ago, she married Butoyi Peres, who today stands patiently in a pink button-up under a live oak tree.

On Tues. June 26, she modeled a colorful headwrap and a satisfied smile as she raised her right hand and cemented her U.S. citizenship with an oath — a promissory note that asks its reciters to renounce all foreign allegiances and, if necessary, take up arms for their new country. Three days earlier, she gave birth to the couple's first child.

"I was hoping to have her before the 26th, on the 18th, and she came on the 23rd, and I was like, 'Oh my god,'" she says. "Now I'm in so much pain, so I have to go back home and sleep."

Her days-old baby's head floated peacefully above a sea of soft pink blankets. Tumaini is most excited about a long visit to see her brothers, sisters, and cousins in her native Tanzania. She hasn't been back in 10 years, partly because the travel restrictions for permanent residents, or green card holders, encourage those seeking naturalization to limit their stays abroad to no more than six months. She also has family to the west that she's never met.

"I've never seen Burundi, maybe next year," she says.

The couple drove two-and-a-half hours from Dillon, a small town near the North Carolina border, so that Tumaini could thread herself into the American fabric at Middleton Place, the same 110-acre stretch of land where she would have suffered ineffable horrors had she arrived two centuries earlier.

A pamphlet for the event calls the plantation a "particularly appropriate venue" for the ceremony. (Post & Courier columnist Brian Hicks later described Middleton Place as an "ideal setting.")

Delivering the citizenship oath was none other than Richard M. Gergel, the same federal judge who sentenced white supremacist Dylann Roof to death last year. The

Obama appointee waxed poetic about the virtues of a founding principle of the new republic: freedom of religion. He spoke of the enslaved Africans, of whom "many were of the Muslim faith," and about his grandparents (two Polish, one Russian, and one Canadian).

"I did not realize until I was a teenager that not everyone's grandparents spoke with an accent," he said to a knowing laugh. "My grandparents loved this country and came here with little financial resources, but a commitment to family, work, and faith, just as each of you has come."

The outdoor ceremony could have easily doubled as a wedding. White chairs faced the plantation house, as well as an altar where Gergel guided the new Americans through their vows of lifelong commitment.

Except that this marriage was between 58 people from 27 different countries and a few founding documents.

Candidates from Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam trudged through the grass in their dress shoes and heels to accept their certificates. The combination of euphoria and pride was palpable as the names — long, short, filled with consonants, vowels, and accents — were called out one by one, signaling the end of what has been a years-long process for many.

There was hardly room for anything but unwavering patriotism. The Star-Spangled Banner inspired everyone to instinctively stand, unlike spectators at a football or baseball game. They faced the American flag, held by one of three men cosplaying as part of the Colonial Color Guard, one of whom was black. Two women dressed like Colonial-era maids debated the best place to print photos (Costco). African immigrants were sworn in as U.S. citizens beside Eliza's House, the freedmen's quarters built in 1870 devoted entirely to the history of the African-American experience at a Middleton Place, a plantation that held a peak population of about 150 slaves depending on the season. The property inventory listed 44 slaves at the time Arthur Middleton's estate was settled.

The naturalization ceremony was being held on Middleton's 276th birthday. One week and a day before the Fourth of July commemorated the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a document signed by Middleton declaring that "all men are created equal."

However murky that promise was, and continues to be, is of little concern to those who desperately want to believe in the most ambitious and majestic of American ideals: economic opportunity, freedom of speech, religious tolerance, and diversity.

"It's like they said in the ceremony, it's a country of immigrants," said Carolina Sacramento Dos Anjos, echoing

Judge Gergel's earlier speech, when asked about what it feels like to become a citizen of a country whose political rhetoric toward immigrants has grown more acidic over the past couple years. "It's providing an opportunity for people who want to have a better life. I wasn't scared. I wasn't worried because I know the law."

Carolina, 30, followed her mother, Rose, to the United States in 2001. Rose had accepted a job offer and was allowed in on an H-1B visa for "speciality occupations," an immigration avenue that the Trump administration has since restricted, citing concerns of misuse by employers.

Carolina began the citizenship process after hitting a self-imposed 15-year mark of living in the U.S, though permanent residents are eligible for naturalization after five years.

"After 15 years, now I'm spending more of my life here than in Brazil, now I'm entitled to feel American," she says, holding a miniature American flag.

Americans' attitudes toward legal immigration are improving. Only 24 percent of Americans now believe that legal immigration should be curbed, down from 53 percent in 2001, according to a survey released by the Pew Research Center last month. At the same time, fewer than half of Americans were aware that most immigrants are, in fact, legal.

During a 2016 campaign stop in Illinois, Donald Trump addressed a man wearing a "Legal Immigrant for Trump" T-shirt.

"People are going to come into our country," Trump said. "We want people to come in. But they've got to come in, like you, legally. My man."

But the number of visitor visas granted under the Trump administration has plunged by 13 percent, according to a Politico analysis of State Department data. And just last month, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a travel ban issued by the Trump administration in September that restricts travel from seven countries: Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, North Korea and Venezuela. The last two were added after the president's first two travel bans, which solely targeted majority-Muslim countries, faced backlash for possibly violating the Constitution's Establishment Clause by seemingly targeting a specific religion (an interpretation that lines up with Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric.)

Like many legal immigrants who spend years and thousands of dollars to remain in the government's good graces, Carolina is quick to point out the difference between her struggle and that of the families who remain separated after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Maintaining one's legal status is so costly and cumbersome, that it engenders a sense of pride in those who fill out the forms, pay the fees, and make it past the citizenship finish line.

The filing fee for those applying for naturalization is \$725, per the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

For cases like Carolina's, green card filing fees for her and her mother could have ranged anywhere from \$3,000 to \$4,000, according to Charleston immigration attorney Brad Banias. Renewing those green cards would run each person \$595, plus an \$85 biometric service fee.

"On a routine case, if someone told me \$1,000 to \$2,000 in just attorney's fees, that would seem reasonable to me," he said. "I do know people in Charleston who charge more than that. On non-routine cases, the price can go up because you're going to work much longer on it."

"You gotta go through the three jobs, Carolina says. "Working in the morning, in the afternoon, at night, eating from the dollar menu so you can do it, because you don't have a choice."

The whole family agrees that the legal process should be easier. Rose, Carolina's mother, holds a more cynical view of those seeking asylum by attempting to cross the border.

"I know a lot of people come with the kids, and when they arrive here, they send the kid back to their country...They just use the kids to enter the country," she argues. "Most of them lie about the situation and use the system."

That system and its various routes — three years of marriage to a citizen, high-skill employment, asylum — are often maligned, if not entirely conflated with migration by "free riders" who are accused of not contributing to taxes and syphoning away resources.

Carolina's step-father Ron, a self-described "hillbilly from West Virginia" who met Rose online, shares this view.

"You have a very large population that are in Charleston that are illegal," he says. "They work, they make excellent money, they pay no taxes. They don't want to come through the system and the process, they just wanna come to this country."

The Migration Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, estimates the total number of "unauthorized immigrants" in South Carolina to be 98,000. In a list of the 121 U.S. counties with the largest unauthorized populations, it lists Greenville County with an estimate of 17,000 undocumented residents. It does not list Charleston County. In 2015, 4.4 million undocumented immigrants paid \$23.6 billion in federal income tax, according to the latest IRS data available.

Three young women walked away from the empty lawn chairs and toward the Middleton Place house museum surrounded by an entourage of family and friends.

Megha Patel, 27, Neha Patel, 27, and Neha Patel, 33, (no relation) all attended M.B. Vamdot High School in the western state of Gujarat in India. After school, they all married men who were mostly raised in the States.

"Typical Indian girls with American boyfriends," Megha jokes.

Soon enough, they all found themselves dispersed throughout South Carolina.

"Everyone's in a different place, but it's a pleasure to have family and friends nearby," Megha says.

Cradling her wide-eyed 11-month-old baby, the younger Neha concurs. She recalls a sense of relief after realizing that her new place in Yemassee would only be slightly over two hours away from Megha.

"I felt good," she says, recalling the disorienting and sometimes panicked first days of a new arrival. "At least somebody is nearby that we know."

None of them shared any visible concerns about the state of the country, opting to focus on what it can deliver based on its platonic ideal.

"In our country, girls mostly don't have too much freedom and economic opportunity. With what they make there, you can't save nothing. Here, you can save at least something," Neha says.

"There are so many different things to do, so many different religions that I have seen here, different people that stay together, and it's really good," Megha adds.

## 44 New US Citizens Welcomed In Ceremony Aboard Battleship

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) – Several dozen people are among the newest United States citizens following a naturalization ceremony aboard a battleship in New Jersey.

NJ.com reports that 44 people from 26 different countries ranging from Bangladesh to Vietnam were administered the oath of allegiance Wednesday by U.S. District Court Deputy Clerk Trish Hruschka.

The ceremony was held on the forecastle or forward deck of the USS New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey, with the Philadelphia skyline across the Delaware River serving as a backdrop.

In 2015, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services welcomed 729,995 citizens during naturalization ceremonies in the United States and around the world.

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This story has been corrected to note battleship's name is USS New Jersey.

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Information from: NJ.com, <http://www.nj.com>

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## 'Hell Yeah, I'm An American.' 42 Become Citizens In 4th Of July Ceremony

[NJ News](#), July 4, 2018

Olivier Franck Duverneau, 21, was a boy in Haiti when the 2010 earthquake devastated the island. In the chaotic aftermath, he was impressed by the members of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, who were helping people and handing out ready-to-eat meals.

"I said I want to be one of these guys. If I get the chance, I'll take it," Duverneau said.

That chance came when he emigrated to the United States two years ago, and found out he could enlist though he only had a green card.

And on the Fourth of July, clad in his Army fatigues aboard the U.S.S. New Jersey in Camden, Duverneau took the oath making him an American citizen. Of the 42 who became citizens at the ceremony Wednesday, at least 10 were military members or veterans who swore allegiance to the country they'd already served.

Asked if he felt different after taking the oath, though he was already pledged to serve in the Army, Duverneau's face transformed with an enormous smile.

"Hell yeah. I'm an American," the Ewing resident said. "That's really important."

At the annual naturalization ceremony aboard the historic battleship, the 42 immigrants stood together, raised their right hands, and repeated the oath that made them citizens. After speeches from officials including U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, they each received a certificate and dispersed to hug their family members and friends. Some registered to vote on the spot. Some scooped hot, tired toddlers into their arms and carried them toward shore and more celebrations.

They hail from 29 different countries, some from as far away as Vietnam and Cameroon and others from as close as Canada and Mexico.

In his address, Booker, D-N.J., urged the new citizens to help the United States to become "a more perfect union" with more love and equality among its residents. He said true patriotism isn't just loving the country, it's loving all its people.

"America has always been aspiring to be about love. Love sees the worth and sees the dignity of everyone, understands that we all have something to contribute, that we need each other, that we share a common destiny," Booker said. "That indeed those Latin words so associated with the truth of our nation, 'e pluribus unum,' is about love. At a time when we often see such hatred and bigotry and meanness in our country, we need to hail the truth of our nation: that we are here because of love."

Booker said he often tells people, "If this country hasn't broken your heart, then you don't love her enough."

"Because sometimes our nation is wrong. We have a history of being a nation that's committed making ourselves a more perfect union... If you love something, you want to elevate it and improve it," he told the crowd.

He said Americans had to unite and go toward that common goal, and quoted an old African saying: "If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together."

After the ceremony, new citizen Cherie Morad, 37, of Cherry Hill said that saying stuck with her.

Morad is from Egypt but has lived in the United States for five years with her husband and two children. Asked about her feelings on being an immigrant at a time when immigration is one of the most hotly debated issues nationally, she said she doesn't feel like one anymore. "I'm an American. Thank God."

"It's a great feeling. I can't tell you. It's amazing," she said.

Her son, Andrew Abdelshahid, 11, said he was also excited about his mom's citizenship for a practical reason: Her status now means the family can travel abroad.

"We couldn't go anywhere because my mom couldn't go," he said.

David Fernandez, 24, was born in Costa Rica but has lived in the United States for 15 years. He serves in the Army and said becoming a citizen will help him further his career.

"It doesn't feel any different," he said. "I always felt like a part of the nation, but now it's official."

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## 42 People Become New U.S. Citizens Aboard The Battleship New Jersey

By Celeste E. Whittaker

[Camden \(NJ\) Courier Post](#), July 4, 2018

CAMDEN – The historic Battleship New Jersey on the Fourth of July was the perfect backdrop to welcome dozens of new U.S. citizens.

On a sweltering Wednesday morning a special naturalization ceremony was held for 42 new citizens from 28 countries around the world, some as far away as Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Mali, Jamaica, Haiti, Poland, Portugal, Ecuador, Czech Republic, Bangladesh, Liberia, India, Germany, Egypt and France.

With the United States' controversial immigration policies a hot-button issue right now, many who took their Oath of Allegiance seemed extra thankful to make their citizenship official.

More: July 4th in South Jersey: Fireworks, parades and more

More: Camden street to get jaywalking barrier

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker was present to help welcome the new citizens, and the U.S. Navy Color Guard posted the colors. In fact, eight of the new citizens are members of the military.

The Battleship has held these ceremonies on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July in the past.

It was part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' annual Independence Day celebration. This year USCIS celebrates the 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's birthday by welcoming 14,000 new citizens in nearly 175 naturalization ceremonies between June 28 and July 10, it says.

John Thompson, the district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Newark, welcomed the crowd aboard the Battleship. It included those who were becoming new citizens and their friends and family members.

"More than two centuries ago, our forefathers declared their independence from Great Britain and proclaimed to the world that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights," Thompson said.

"...It is the spirit of independence that has guided our nation and its proud tradition of welcoming generations of immigrants such as yourselves to our shores. I congratulate all of you on this important achievement of becoming a citizen of the United States. Your hard work and determination have led you here today."

Yury Vasilyev of Russia and his wife Jeanette were emotional after the ceremony. The Deptford resident was one of the eight military members to become a citizen at Wednesday's ceremony. A member of the U.S. Army serving at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, he was overwhelmed.

"That means I finally found a home," said Vasilyev, who has been in the U.S. for about five years. "When my family first got to the United States, I finally got this idea that I'm finally coming home but now it's finally finalized and it's official. I have the papers. This is my home. I'm not going to go anywhere; I'm not going to leave America."

It wasn't lost on him that Philadelphia was visible just across the Delaware River. It's where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

"First of all, it's a big holiday for all of us," he said. "It's Independence Day. It's the birth of our nation. To be a citizen on this memorable day for our nations, it's big."

Said Jeanette: "It means the world. He's wanted it for so long. Before I met him, he had planned to join the U.S. Army to get it and to serve our country. All he wanted to do was serve our country and become a citizen."

Alpha Tall, 22, from Mali in Africa sat in the front row taking in every word. He currently lives in Reading, Pennsylvania, and is in the Air Force reserves out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. His mother and other relatives attended the ceremony as well.

"I've been in the United States about four years," Tall said grinning. "It's great. It's a great feeling. I love it."

Booker told the crowd the oath they took is about love, commitment, dedication and determination. He spoke about

the kind of unconditional love his mom has always had for him, offering him constructive criticism when he needed it.

"She criticized me not because she was trying to demean or degrade me, but because she wanted the best for me," he said. "If you love something you want to elevate it and improve it. That is the call of love. We who say we love America must serve her, must defend her, must fight for her, must humble ourselves before our fellow Americans and try to elevate the whole."

He said he believes the world needs America now as much as ever.

"It needs our heart, it needs our spirit, it needs our moral example, it needs our justice," Booker said. "So I am thrilled today, I am excited to welcome people who have hungered to be Americans."

"I believe that with you as new citizens, small group that you are, joined together with other Americans that you are the hope of a nation," he said. "You are the promise of all that we can become and that indeed if we do our duty like our ancestors did then, if we work enough and serve enough and help enough and heal enough, if we love enough, then future generations will have a better nation to celebrate, to enjoy and to continue to be a light unto all."

Last SlideNext Slide

Madiha Ameen, 37, got emotional as the ceremony went along, realizing the enormity of the moment as she sat with her husband Ameen Ahmad. She's been in the U.S. for about 14 years.

A native of Pakistan, Ameen was thrilled to make her citizenship official and her husband hopes to soon follow her lead.

"I'm very excited and it's a great opportunity to receive the certificate from the U.S. Senator from New Jersey," said Ameen, who lives in West Windsor. "It's an awesome feeling. Finally. It's a great feeling."

Her husband said it's exciting.

"I'm just waiting for my turn to come up," he said. "It gave us an opportunity for our kids and for us to grow our family here. All the things that the U.S. Senator said really excite us to be here and be part of this country."

Celeste E. Whittaker: @cp\_CWhittaker; 856-486-2437; cwhittaker@gannett.com

Also in South Jersey

## 50 Become Citizens In Ceremony Aboard USS Midway

[Times of San Diego](#), July 3, 2018

Fifty people, most of them active-duty military, became citizens Wednesday in a naturalization ceremony aboard the USS Midway in San Diego harbor.

The ceremony was one of 175 being held across the country between June 28 and July 10 by U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services to welcome more than 14,000 new citizens.

"This day will have new meaning for you," said Rear Adm. Yancy Lindsey, commander of Navy Region Southwest, during the ceremony. "It will be your Independence Day, your day to celebrate, along with your fellow citizens, this place we call home."

"Welcome to America brothers and sisters," said one comment on the USCIS Facebook page.

The new citizens were originally from 20 different countries, according to USCIS. The largest group, at 13, was from Mexico. Seven were from the Philippines, and five were from Jamaica.

Another retired Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet docked in San Francisco Bay, was also the location of a naturalization ceremony on Wednesday.

## 49 Military Personnel And Family Members Take Citizenship Oath On USS Midway

By Kate Morrissey

[San Diego Union-Tribune](#), July 3, 2018

Military service members and a few of their spouses took oaths to become U.S. citizens on Tuesday aboard the USS Midway Museum as part of Citizenship and Immigration Service's celebration of Independence Day.

The ceremony is one of about 175 events the agency is holding across the country to naturalize more than 14,000 people around the Fourth of July.

"This day will have new meaning for you," Rear Admiral Yancy Lindsey, commander of the Navy Region Southwest, told the new citizens in San Diego. "It will be your Independence Day, your day to celebrate, along with your fellow citizens, this place we call home."

America's newest 49 U.S. citizens were sworn in during a ceremony held on board the USS Midway Museum, from across 19 different countries.

(Nelvin C. Cepeda)

The 49 new citizens were born in 19 different countries. The largest group, at 13, was from Mexico. Seven were from the Philippines, and five were from Jamaica.

The rest were from Afghanistan, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Micronesia, Nigeria, Poland, South Korea, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

Melissa Maxim, field office director of USCIS in San Diego, congratulated the group on reaching the "final step in the immigration journey."

"Immigrants in the U.S. have always had a profound impact on our nation and the world," Maxim said before the citizenship oath. "They strengthen the fabric of our nation."

San Diego's newest Americans serve in the Navy, Marines, Army and Coast Guard.

Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Dominguez Garcia came to the U.S. from Mexico about 30 years ago when he was five years old.

He's been in the Marines for 16 years, he said. Because of deployments overseas, naturalizing took a long time, he said.

"I've been defending this country for some time, and it's great to finally be a citizen," Dominguez Garcia said. "For me and my family, it's a dream come true."

Being on the USS Midway so close to the Fourth of July made the event extra special for him, he said.

"It makes a guy emotional, but we'll hold it in for the ceremony," he said.

On Monday, he was promoted to gunnery sergeant, further adding to his reasons to celebrate this week.

Lance Cpl. Nadim Yousify, originally from Afghanistan, came to the U.S. on a special immigrant visa, or SIV, after working for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as a translator for about five years.

He's been in the Marines for about 11 months. It was the first job he wanted to do when he arrived in the U.S., he said.

He hopes having U.S. citizenship will allow him to get the kind of security clearances he would need to work in intelligence.

He didn't bring family with him when he came to the U.S., he said, but many from his unit were there to support him on Tuesday.

He considers them family, he said. They took up close to two rows of seating.

When he walked across the stage to get his certificate, he paused to face them, beating his chest and raising his arms in the air three times.

"Highlanders!" his American family cheered each time.

Seaman Graisy Landa Ramirez, who serves in the Navy on the USS Paul Hamilton, came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in 2003.

Her shipmates were one of the loudest cheering sections at the event.

"It's nice," Landa Ramirez said. "My family is not out here, but my shipmates are my family, so it's nice that they're here to support me."

She said becoming a U.S. citizen made her feel both relieved and happy.

"My parents were harping me about it," Landa Ramirez said. "There are certain restrictions for residents that, now as a citizen, I don't have to worry about."

Seaman Apprentice Samuel Awenti came to the U.S. in October 2016 from Cameroon on a diversity visa. In September 2017, he joined the Navy.

"I've always admired America from my childhood," Awenti said. "I wanted to be part of that great force and add more dignity to my name."

His wife is still in Cameroon, he said. He hopes that by becoming a U.S. citizen, he will speed up processing for her to get a green card to join him in his new home.

He has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cameroon, he said, and he also hopes his new citizenship will allow him to become an officer.

Virginia Lopez Coleman came to the U.S. more than 25 years ago from Mexico. Her husband is an Army veteran, and her daughter currently serves in the Army in Hawaii.

Both were there to cheer her on as she took her oath, her husband getting up to snap photos with his phone during the ceremony.

She said being part of the USS Midway event made her feel special.

"I feel so proud to do it because my husband and my daughter serve this country, and it's an honor to me to be a citizen of this country," Lopez Coleman said.

Seaman Ayesha Willy, 21, came to the U.S. from the Philippines when she was 12. She's been in the Navy for about a year.

She said that as a civilian, it was difficult to go through the naturalization process, and joining the military made it much easier.

She planned to celebrate her new citizenship, and the Fourth of July, with her friends.

## **Dozens Of US Service Members Become Citizens In Independence Day Ceremony Aboard USS Midway**

By Melissa Adan

[KNSD-TV San Diego](#), July 3, 2018

A patriotic ceremony was held aboard one of San Diego's most historic ships to celebrate the new citizenship of dozens of military members just a day ahead of Independence Day.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) welcomed 50 people from 20 different countries as new U.S. citizens in a naturalization ceremony aboard USS Midway.

"It's an honor to really be a part of something so great and it's very welcoming to know that right before July Fourth, Independence Day, I'm becoming a citizen of the United States," said Cris-Anne Stewart Palmer, who is a U.S. Navy servicemember from Jamaica.

USCIS said over the last three weeks, there have been 14,000 people sworn in as citizens at nearly 185 naturalization ceremonies.

## **Fourth Of July Welcomes New U.S. Citizens In Salinas And Beyond**

By Krista Almanzan

[KAZU-FM Monterey Bay \(CA\)](#), July 3, 2018

Taking the oath of citizenship is a Fourth of July tradition across the country. This holiday season about 14,000 immigrants will become American citizens, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

One ceremony took place Tuesday in Salinas.

Immigrants from 20 different countries, including China, Russia and Fiji, packed Steinbeck Hall at Hartnell Community College.

Along with their supporters and local dignitaries, they gave each country of origin a round of applause.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta gave the keynote address. "We do not expect you to stop loving your nation of origin. It's okay to root for your team during the World Cup," he told the crowd.

77 people took the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens during the ceremony.

"The oath that you just took it is not to a bloodline or a body of land. That oath is to a body of principles, a devotion to a set of demanding and common ideals that are based the human spirit for liberty and justice. That is the foundation of this great enterprise we call the United States of America," said Congressman Panetta.

Eduardo Gonzales is from Mexico. He says he was granted political asylum about seven years ago for facing persecution as a member of the LGBT community. It's changed his life.

"I study and I got a contractor's license. I opened my own business. And I just purchased a home two months ago. I did all that by being a legal resident," said Gonzales.

Maria Veronica Serratos Valdivia grew up in Santa Cruz. She's now a grad student studying to become a physician's assistant. She says becoming U.S. citizen puts her mind at ease.

"It takes away the fear factor, right. The fear that at some point everything that you've worked for can be stripped away," said Serratos Valdivia.

Karin Cowley is from Germany. She's glad to finally share citizenship with her American husband and their two children. She's also glad to have the right to vote.

"I don't want to just live here and let things happen. I would like to actively pursue change in this country," said Cowley.

Across the country, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will hold 175 naturalization ceremonies around Independence Day. They began on June 28th and will continue through July 10th.

## **New United States Citizens Sworn In On USS Hornet In Alameda**

By Timothy Didion And Dan Ashley

[KGO-TV San Francisco](#), July 3, 2018

ALAMEDA, Calif. (KGO) –

They gathered on the sunbaked deck of the USS Hornet in Alameda – 76 immigrants from 31 countries about to become American citizens.

Donovan Velasquez's family is from Nicaragua. "I do feel welcome, especially here today," said Donovan Velasquez, whose family is from Nicaragua.

For many, the day capped a journey of determination and promise. And now the responsibility of free speech and voting in a new country now banning travel for some and building walls to keep out others.

Claudia Arroyo is originally from Mexico and works for a nonprofit that helps young Latinos. "I'm ready to speak out for other immigrants. I know that right now, there are many things going on, and I really want to be the voice for workers that are here," she says.

Hawesta Wassel was a little girl when her family left Afghanistan and attended the ceremony with her own daughter.

"I don't think there should be a travel ban at all. I think everyone should have the same rights as everyone else," she said.

Vice Admiral Linda Fagan of the United States Coast Guard welcomed the crowd, telling them that they make the country stronger with their passion and energy.

"Together we make America greater, and together America is greater now with your citizenship," said Fagan.

And with determination and hope for a better life, they raised their right hands, repeating the promises we're all asked to keep.

## **New U.S. Citizens Celebrate At Saratoga Battlefield**

By Kenneth C. Crowe II

[Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#), July 4, 2018

STILLWATER – The country's newest citizens who were sworn in at an Independence Day ceremony at the Saratoga National Historical Park Wednesday said they now gain a voice in determining the nation's future — just as the colonists did when they defeated a British army at the Battles of Saratoga in 1777.

Colonial re-enactors fired musket and cannon salutes in the morning ceremony to welcome the 20 new citizens who hailed from 14 different countries. Nearly 400 people gathered at the visitors center to applaud the newest Americans after they took the Oath of Allegiance.

As immigrants, they've watched how President Donald Trump's administration has sought to impose a travel ban on those fleeing Syria and Iran, while also separating children from parents who are entering at the country's borders illegally.

"I agree with updating the process, but you just don't set the door close," said Basssam Abdelnabi, 39, of Guilderland.

Abdelnabi, a married father of four, came to the U.S. to pursue his education. Advanced degrees from American universities brought him to the Capital Region to work as an engineer for General Electric.

"It's been a long journey," Abdelnabi said.

Like many new Americans, among the most important things he wanted to accomplish is to gain the right to vote. He's enrolled as a Democrat and is looking forward to his first election as a voter this fall.

Millicent Okyere, 24, a graduate student at the state University at Albany, said, "I want to my voice to connect with leaders."

Okyere, a native of Ghana, said she's registered as an unaffiliated voter and plans to volunteer as an interpreter to assist Ghanaians who may have immigration issues.

The hour-long program at the battlefield, where historians consider the American Revolution to have turned in favor of colonial victory, praised the country's diversity and the contributions of immigrants in building the nation.

"I'm a first generation American," said Priyanka Kumar, 17, of Latham, who was the 15th annual ceremony's keynote speaker. Her parents came to the U.S. from India, arriving on July 6, 1989, with \$40 and their green cards, she recalled.

"They wanted to come to a country where they could work hard and succeed. They were following the famous American Dream not just for themselves but for their kids," said Priyanka, a student at The Hotchkiss School, whose older brother graduated from Harvard.

The battlefield citizenship ceremony was among about 175 held across the nation between June 28 and July 10 by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, marking the 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Philippe Boyer, 51, of Saratoga Springs, is a native of France, the U.S.'s oldest ally. He came to the Capital Region about seven years ago to work for a company supplying GlobalFoundries' Fab 8 in Malta.

"We're all immigrants," Boyer said about all Americans.

Boyer plans to register to vote in order to participate in the community where he and his family have made their home. He said just being in the U.S. on a green card was not enough.

Fiona Ginty, 46, of Saratoga Springs, a GE engineer originally from Ireland, has registered to vote as a Democrat. She said back in her native Galway, people are concerned about the U.S., but see the nation's core values as resilient to whatever may happen in the country's politics.

Volunteer Joe Craig, a retired park ranger, led the crowd in traditional 18th-century toasts to the Declaration of Independence.

"They're as American as apple pie," Craig said about the new Americans. "Every bit of apple pie ingredients aren't native to North America."

## 30 New Citizens To Be Sworn In At National World War II Museum

[WWL-TV New Orleans](#), July 3, 2018

NEW ORLEANS – More than two dozen people will become America's newest citizens during a special ceremony at the National World War II museum Tuesday.

The ceremony in the Big Easy is one of 175 others nationwide that is expected to welcome 14,000 new citizens. The ceremonies are part of the USCIS's annual Fourth of July celebrations.

In New Orleans specifically, the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services will be swearing in 30 people. The ceremony starts at 10 a.m. at the Boeing Center at the National World War II Museum.

## Dozens Celebrate Becoming Naturalized Citizens Right Before Inde

By Tiffany Wong

[WVUE-TV New Orleans](#), July 3, 2018

NEW ORLEANS (WVUE) –

Dozens of people celebrated the Fourth of July early.

"I'm very happy, just excited. I told myself don't cry," Anna Lavrova said.

More than 50 people from 24 countries anxiously stood in line to receive their certificates at the naturalization ceremony held at the National WWII Museum.

"We hope and pray that this is the day that will be one of those most memorable days in your lives. This day is a life-changing moment. It's a game-changer," New Orleans Field Office Director Stanley Crockett said.

U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan delivered a keynote speech about the history and importance of immigrants to America.

"Your diversity is our strength. As the American Historian Arthur Schlesinger wrote, the genius of America lies in its capacity to forge a single nation from peoples of remarkably diverse racial, religious and ethnic origins," Morgan said.

Johanna Martin waited 19 years for this moment.

"I had to get my residency card twice because the process took a little longer, but it was well worth it," Martin said.

Martin said this milestone is personal.

"I lost my mother about three months ago, and this is one of the things that she really wanted me to do. She pushed me forward. She's like you have to apply to become a citizen. I wish she would've been here. I'm actually wearing yellow, which is her favorite color because she couldn't be here. So it is definitely a very exciting day," Martin said.

For many, they already know what their first order of business as a U.S. Citizen will be.

"Vote! It's always a privilege. It tells me something to vote, because at least you put people in that you know that can really do the job, and that is the opportunity for me to do," Jennifer Charles said.

Charles' family could not make it, but she can't wait to bring them the news.

"This moment is a happy moment. i know i am a u.s. citizen now, and that made me so proud. so as I tell my kids going back to Jamaica, I'll come back as a U.S. Citizen," Charles said.

This ceremony is part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' way of welcoming new citizens to celebrate the America's birthday.

Nationwide, more than 14,000 people will become citizens by July 10.

## **4th Of July 2018 Special For 30 New US Citizens**

[WDSU-TV New Orleans](#), July 4, 2018

NEW ORLEANS —

This Fourth of July is a special one for 30 new U.S. citizens who took the Oath of Allegiance Tuesday at the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

The new citizens originally hail from all different parts of the globe, including China, Ecuador, India, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Mexico, Spain and Vietnam.

Anna Lavorva, originally from Russia, said the journey to citizenship was tough but worth it.

"(It's) a very long process. Initially (a) green card, then the interview," she said. "(I) applied for a passport, we were waiting a long time. (We) worried a lot, (but) now we are happy."

Each year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services organizes naturalization ceremonies across the country in honor of Independence Day. More than 14,000 people will become new citizens as part of the ceremonies going on through July 10.

More information about naturalization can be found on the U.S. CIS website.

## **Citizenship Ceremony At Old Sturbridge Village Welcomes 152 New Americans**

By Paula J. Owen

[Worcester \(MA\) Telegram & Gazette](#), July 4, 2018

STURBRIDGE — It was a special July Fourth at Old Sturbridge Village as 152 new citizens took the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony on the Common amid the village's Independence Day activities.

Hundreds gathered to watch the ceremony presided over by Kenneth P. Neiman, magistrate judge, U.S. District Court. Also attending were Joseph S. Forte, supervisory immigration service officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services Lawrence Field Office, and Denis C. Riordan, Boston district director, USCIS.

Citizenship candidates came to the U.S. from 52 countries, including Albania, Australia, Barbados, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zambia.

"You are all American citizens now," said Judge Neiman, who noted that his grandparents immigrated to the U.S. more than a century ago from either czarist Russia or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Mr. Neiman was also celebrating his birthday Wednesday.

"This is a very special place — Old Sturbridge Village, which represents an important part of the history of our country — and an important day, the Fourth of July, to celebrate your birth as new citizens," he said. "Congratulations to each one of you."

When President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation in 1965 that transformed the naturalization process, Mr. Neiman said, he gave a short talk that is just as meaningful today — particularly with "immigration so much in the national spotlight."

President Johnson said "our beautiful America was built by a nation of strangers," the judge recalled, from a 100 different places or more and the land flourished because it was filled with the diversity of so many different cultures, traditions and peoples.

"Unfortunately, for many others in our country, whether they harvest crops in our fields, help construct our buildings, work in our restaurants, or even seek asylum, American citizenship remains too distant a dream," Judge Neiman said. "We must make sure, therefore, especially now when the public discourse about immigration has become so toxic, that the ladder which you have been able to climb to arrive to this day is not pulled up behind you."

He urged them to exercise their right to vote, speak their minds and participate in the governance of the country.

Somia Abousalama, 26, who came to the U.S. from Egypt four years ago, took the oath as her son, Omar A. Elmasry, 2, stood watching on the Common.

Her husband, a dentist, also came to the U.S. from Egypt eight years ago, she said, and the couple were separated for years until they could be together. Now living in West Springfield, Ms. Abousalama, a pharmacist, said they are contributing to society and hope her parents can also come to the U.S. one day.

"It felt so good," she said. "I feel like I am giving the country my best and it is worth it."

She said preparing for the ceremony also made her think about the Trump administration's immigration policy of separating children from their parents at the U.S. border.

"The country has to put rules and regulations in place, but at the same time, it has to be humane," she said.

Immigrants fleeing violence in their countries should have a way to prove themselves and be given a chance to stay in the U.S. legally, she said, referring to Syrians who take to the sea to escape bombings knowing they and their children may drown.

Jose G. Annunziato, 49, a professor at Northeastern University who came to the U.S. from Venezuela in 1995, became a citizen as his wife, Alexandra C. Gonzalez, a nurse who went through the naturalization process in 1995, watched the ceremony, smiling proudly.

The Dunstable couple, parents of four children, 12, 18, 20 and 21, said raising children while working toward Mr. Annunziato's citizenship was challenging, juggling work and family. He said part of the reason he finished the process is because he is concerned about how the national immigration crisis has become "toxic."

Also important to him are research and job opportunities only open to citizens, he said, including space engineering work in which his sons are involved.

"We first came to study for our masters and doctorates," Mr. Annunziato said. "We fell in love with the country and I fell in love with research and investigating new technology. It is so vibrant and there are so many new things to learn. All of a sudden, I realized I could not participate in the space program unless I was a citizen or other opportunities."

Both said participating in the ceremony on July 4th at OSV made it extra special. "I love America," Ms. Gonzalez said. "I feel totally American. My kids are American and now my husband is American, too."

The ceremony was part of USCIS' annual Independence Day celebration. This year, USCIS will welcome more than 14,000 new citizens in nearly 175 naturalization ceremonies between June 28 and July 10.

## **Fourth Of July Rite Of Passage Celebrates 58 New Americans**

By Dusty Christensen

[Daily Hampshire \(MA\) Gazette](#), July 4, 2018

NORTHAMPTON — It took Carmen Quiroz more than 18 difficult years to become a U.S. citizen after immigrating from Ecuador. But that process was worth the wait as she walked in front of a large crowd, miniature American flag in hand, to collect her certificate of citizenship on Wednesday.

"So excited," Quiroz said when asked what her emotions were. "I became part of the United States!"

Quiroz was one of 58 immigrants who were sworn in as U.S. citizens on Wednesday in a downtown ceremony organized by the Center for New Americans. This year marked a decade since the center began organizing naturalization ceremonies in Northampton. Represented at the ceremony were 33 different countries, from Mexico and Canada to Bangladesh and Bhutan.

"Getting to help people through the citizenship process reminds me every day of the gifts and talents immigrants bring to this country," Tina Sanchez, the Center for New Americans' citizenship associate, said prior to the event. "Each person has a powerful story and I feel lucky to share a little in each of their lives."

One of those powerful stories was that of Adriana Sarsynski, 61, who came to the United States from Colombia.

"I came here in 2013 because I fell in love with an American guy," she said with a beaming smile, nodding to her husband, Mike Sarsynski.

Sarsynski first received her green card after marrying in 2013, and has since become a certified healthcare interpreter, a profession that is in demand in places like hospitals.

"Becoming a U.S. citizen is special," Laurie Millman, executive director of the Center for New Americans, told the crowd. "Becoming a U.S. citizen on the Fourth of July is extra special."

An estimated 400 people turned up for the event on the grounds of the Hampshire County Courthouse, a larger turnout than in previous years.

"We hear a lot about the greatness of our country, and whether it's great and if it's still great," Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz said, looking out over those about to become citizens. "To me, this is the greatness of our country."

The ceremony, as in previous years, featured local singer Evelyn Harris performing several patriotic songs. She drew loud applause when, during her version of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," she replaced the lyric "land of the pilgrims' pride" with the line "land of the natives' pride."

The 58 local immigrants stood as they took the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, as immigrants have done for some 220 years.

"That's it, you're now American citizens!" U.S. Magistrate Katherine Robertson, who presided over the ceremony, told the group. "Congratulations to all of you."

As the ceremony ended, Kool and the Gang's "Celebration" blasted out over the speakers and some began to dance as the bass-heavy music filled downtown Northampton.

Swaying to the music were Rene and Rena Owusu Agyapomaa, of Ghana. The 25-year-old twin sisters were all smiles, bouncing between conversations with reporters, their mother and two other sisters.

"So ecstatic!" were Rene's only words when asked her feelings.

Those, too, were the emotions that Emily Henry, of the Philippines, after the ceremony. The 34-year-old was celebrating with her 7-year-old son, John Henry Kazar. She said that as she walked up to receive her certificate, she thought about all of those in America who had helped her get to where she was now.

"I said, 'Thank God I'm now a part of this country, and I'm happy to have a new family,'" she said of her thoughts as she became a citizen. "Welcome to the land of the free."Dusty Christensen can be reached at dchristensen@gazettenet.com.

## 67 Join 'Our American Family' At Monticello Naturalization Ceremony

By Allison Wrabel

[Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#), July 4, 2018

Reidar Stiernstrand completed his interview for citizenship two weeks ago.

"[I] asked the agent there," he said, "There's this event down at Monticello down in Charlottesville, where I live. It's in two weeks, on the Fourth of July. Do you think there's any chance I can get in there?"

The next day, Stiernstrand got a call that he could participate.

"I couldn't be happier, to be honest," he said.

Stiernstrand was one of 67 people from 35 countries who became American citizens at the 56th annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony at Thomas Jefferson's Albemarle County home on Wednesday.

Andrew Tisch, co-chairman of the Loews Corporation, was the keynote speaker. He said this was a time when some Americans are questioning the value of immigration and immigrants.

"This isn't the first time that our nation finds itself at the same crossroads. While America is a nation of immigrants, we have a long and troubling history of barricading the doors to new arrivals," Tisch said. "Fortunately, we have an even longer and more glorious history of tearing down those barricades, because the truth is we need and we want immigrants. You make America bigger, better and stronger."

Tisch spoke about his family's history and the immigration of his grandfather, as well as his new book, "Journeys: An American Story," which he co-authored with Mary Skafidas. The book is made up of essays of the immigrant experience from public figures.

He said many perceive the United States as a melting pot.

"We see America a little bit differently — we see it as a mosaic, with tiles of many different colors, shapes, sizes and textures," Tisch said. "The grout that holds us together is the common desire for freedom, justice and opportunity. Without this grout, we would be nothing more than a pile of stones."

Melissa Kitto, originally from New Zealand, said she has lived in the United States for 14 years.

"It just felt like it's time to become official and to have the rights of a citizen, particularly voting and having a say in

that, and that feeling of, 'OK, now I really belong here,' because I've lived here for so long, it's my home," she said.

Kitto said she has mixed feelings about national immigration issues.

"I know how hard it was for me to get here and I can see the value of having those procedures," she said. "However, at the same time, I care about people and I think people should be treated fairly."

A documentary about the journey of people trying to get through borders and the hardships from which they were trying to escape opened her eyes, she said.

"That wasn't my upbringing, and I think it's important to have empathy for what those people are experiencing and the reasons why they're trying to come here," Kitto said.

Taniaz Mamund, who lives in Harrisonburg after moving from Iraq, said the opportunity for freedom and to be successful in life made her want to get U.S. citizenship.

"Because there's not [freedom everywhere] in this world, but in America, we find these freedoms," she said.

It was a warm and sunny morning, with a temperature of about 85 degrees and a relative humidity of about 72 percent, according to the National Weather Service.

Judge Michael F. Urbanski, who presided over the ceremony, noted the heat multiple times.

"Welcome to court this morning," he said. "Usually the air conditioner works a little better in court than here, but sometimes it doesn't."

Urbanski shared a story about his parents immigrating to the U.S. and said that, as a nation of immigrants, we share similar stories.

"Today, you join a new family, our American family," he said. "A family built on principles of hard work, individual freedom, tolerance and personal responsibility."

He encouraged everyone to get involved in their communities.

"Take an active role in your community, schools and government, and understand that along with the privilege of citizenship comes the responsibility to protect, preserve and defend the principles upon which our nation is based," Urbanski said.

Stiernstrand, who is from Sweden, said he believes that once a person lives in a country. they should try and take part in as much of it as possible, which is why he wanted to become a citizen.

"Of course you want to be a full part of where you live and contribute to the society in the best way that you can," he said.

## Immigrants Take Oath At Monticello, Feeling The Weight Of The Past

By Emily Cochrane

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Just before 9 a.m. on the Fourth of July, the gong on Monticello's roof rang, silencing the crowd that had gathered to celebrate those vowing to uphold and protect the ideals of the United States.

The sound heralded the pageantry that was moments away, when nearly 70 people would ascend the stairs of Thomas Jefferson's mountaintop plantation in one of the country's largest outdoor naturalization ceremonies.

"This place for me is for the birth of America, birth of liberty and, now, the birth of my citizenship," said Joseph Csaba Nagy, formerly of Romania, who arrived Wednesday to take the oath of allegiance in a suit that he had saved for the occasion: a blue jacket with white stars, red pants and a red-and-white striped tie.

But there was subtext to this naturalization ceremony at Monticello, where the legacy of a Founding Father is being rewritten to acknowledge that Jefferson, a slave owner, failed to truly include all when he wrote "all men are created equal."

"Jefferson's notion of liberty, while visionary for its time, did not extend to all people," said Leslie Greene Bowman, the president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, recognizing both the enslaved people who lived and worked at Monticello and the estate's new public acknowledgment of Sally Hemings, the slave who bore Jefferson's children.

Looming even more prominently over the ceremony was President Trump's push for an immigration crackdown, the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Trump administration's travel ban and the outcry over family separations at the border.

Several of the new citizens had lived in the United States for years, but felt buoyed by now having the right to vote, to be able to weigh in on Mr. Trump's policies. And of the more than 30 countries represented at the ceremony, many of them — including Mexico, Iran and Canada — have repeatedly incurred the president's ire.

At the ceremony, the influence of Mr. Trump's policies was apparent, as a small group of speakers — including Andrew H. Tisch, the businessman and philanthropist — reminded the new citizens of the crucial role immigrants have played in American history and of the importance of embracing democracy.

"Immigrants have literally built America from the ground up," Mr. Tisch, the keynote speaker, told the crowd as he recounted his family's immigrant roots. "We need and want immigrants."

One woman, newly empowered with the rights of an American citizen, announced that she "could not wait to vote," to enthusiastic applause. And in the shade of a tent that served free cola floats, voter registration clipboards were circulated among the new citizens, identifiable by their commemorative medals and tightly clutched American flags.

Mr. Nagy, 55, who received his green card through the diversity visa lottery program that Mr. Trump has called to

end, stood up to briefly share his joy over fulfilling a 20-year dream of becoming an American citizen.

"I was a little sad," Mr. Nagy said, recalling how he felt about the president's action. "For me, it was a very wonderful feeling to receive this lottery visa."

But he said that it did not take away from his love for the United States, which started two decades earlier when he visited New York for the first time and marveled at what he saw as the peaceful integration of so many cultures.

"What's showing is how America became great — why America became great," he said. "Now I feel completed in that dream from 20 years ago, to become a part of this family."

Like many of the people naturalized Wednesday, Mr. Nagy broke into a broad grin after reciting the oath, waving to family members in the crowd.

"It reminds me of getting married," said Melissa Kitto, 40, an entrepreneur originally from New Zealand who resolved to start voting after 14 years of residency in the United States. "It doesn't seem like that big of a deal, but when you do it, it's like wow, this is a big deal."

The magnitude of becoming a citizen, she said, was amplified by the ceremony's venue, even in the sweltering July heat.

"I thought I was going to be in a small office in D.C.," Ms. Kitto said. "There's an energy here, and an atmosphere that's special."

On the open lawn, families posed for pictures in front of Jefferson's gardens, and strangers exchanged congratulations.

Some had come merely to visit Monticello, but were drawn to the emotions of the naturalization ceremony on Independence Day. Others had come to support loved ones and to imagine saying the words of allegiance themselves one day.

"Now he's not only American in heart, but on paper as well," said Tamas Nagy, 23, Mr. Nagy's nephew, as he watched the crowds disperse. His uncle's ceremony, he said, made him excited for the end of his own path to United States citizenship.

He waited as his Uncle Joseph clasped hands with strangers, many of whom complimented him on his suit. One man scribbled down the phone number of a Romanian acquaintance eager to reach out to a fellow new citizen. But before the man turned to leave, he paused and shook Mr. Nagy's hand.

"Welcome to America."

Collapse

SEE MY OPTIONS

## 585 Join Ranks Of U.S. Citizens

By Kori Tuitt

[Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#), July 4, 2018

LOWELL – More than 500 candidates for United States citizenship excitedly sat in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium on Wednesday. They waved miniature American flags, looked up to family and friends sitting in the balcony above them and loudly applauded and cheered during the naturalization ceremony.

U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani said there were 585 new citizens in the auditorium from more than 70 countries. As Talwani read the name of each country, those who called it their homeland rose and remained standing until all were standing.

Some countries, like Brazil, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, drew out the loudest of cheers. Though, they were not the loudest group, most new citizens at the ceremony were from China.

Name: Glauber Monteiro Age: 24 Hometown: Dorchester Born in: Cape Verde Why they left: I came with my sister when I was 13 years old. Arrived in U.S.: 2007 Why they came: All of our family is already here.

"Immigrants like you have come to this country driven to make the most of themselves, bringing to this country ideas, energy and skills," Talwani said.

The ceremony was part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' annual celebration of Independence Day. There were nearly 175 ceremonies scheduled between June 28 and July 10, welcoming more than 14,000 new U.S. citizens.

Talwani reminded everyone of their newly earned rights, like being able to vote, but said they were afforded numerous rights the moment they entered the country. She said she was proud to be the daughter of immigrant parents. Her mother came to the States from Germany, and her father from India.

Tinu Jacob, of Stoughton, was at the ceremony for his wife, Richa Jacob, who just became a citizen. Both originally from India, said they enjoyed the ceremony and Talwani's speech.

"It was awesome," Tinu Jacob, 32, said. "Especially knowing the judge's parents were immigrants, too, that speaks volumes."

Of those at the ceremony, 101, including Richa Jacob, also officially changed their names.

Mackenson Joseph, 35, of Medford, said he emigrated from Haiti in 2008.

Name: Richa Jacob Age: 27 Hometown: Stoughton Born in: India Why they left: I got married and the U.S. is better than India. Arrived in U.S.: Thanksgiving Day 2014 Why they came: Wherever (my husband) goes, I go.

"I felt really good being around these different nationalities and now we are all American citizens," he said. "I'm proud to be a citizen of the United States."

For 44-year-old Alexandra Gomes, of Lowell, the feeling was simple.

"I am so happy," she said with a broad smile. Gomes emigrated from Cape Verde five years ago and has been living in Lowell ever since.

Glauber Monteiro, who is also from Cape Verde, now lives in Dorchester. He was touched by the Talwani's words as well.

"It's a great accomplishment. Anybody can make it if you really work hard," the 24-year-old said.

Before some of the newest citizens of the country exited the auditorium, they waved their American flags in the air with delight.

Name: Alexandra Gomes Age: 44 Hometown: Lowell Born in: Cape Verde Why they left: For my family. Arrived in U.S.: 2013 Why they came: For my family to be closer together.

"You are now an American – not a part-American, not a second-class American – but an American," Talwani said.

Follow Kori Tuitt on Twitter @KoriTuitt.

## **Fifteen New Citizens Celebrate What It Means To Be American At Bandelier Ceremony**

By Sami Edge

[Santa Fe New Mexican](#), July 5, 2018

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT — Valerie Atiano moved to the United States for love almost 20 years ago.

"Only a French person would be a romantic to do that," she said.

On the Fourth of July, Atiano became one of America's newest citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Bandelier National Monument. There was a romantic element to that, too.

While Atiano, 42, said her decision was driven by the need to pick a country rather than "sitting between two chairs," as a permanent resident, Wednesday's naturalization ceremony gave her more than just peace of mind. It gave her a new last name.

Almost three years ago, Atiano married her wife, Amy. Instead of using either of their last names, the pair decided to choose a new name to share: Atiano.

But because her new surname didn't match the name on her green card documents, Valerie Atiano hasn't been able to officially adopt her married name.

That is, until Wednesday.

"It's a big day," Atiano said following the naturalization ceremony. "I became someone else. I not only became a citizen, I changed my last name."

At times during the ceremony that saw 15 people become citizens, Atiano teared up. It was more emotional than either she or her wife expected.

"Having my wife share my citizenship, I didn't know it would be oddly, and very profoundly, moving," Amy Atiano said.

The naturalization ceremony at Bandelier was the eighth annual citizenship ceremony held at the national monument on Independence Day. Citizenship applicants from a dozen different countries, including Russia, the Philippines and Australia, sat in folding tables beneath a large canvas cover spread out behind the Bandelier National Monument visitors center.

Over the course of an hour, the group listened to speeches, watched a video recording from President Donald Trump, sang along to tunes like "This Land is Our Land" and pledged their loyalty to the U.S.

After shaking hands with Senior U.S. District Judge M. Christina Armijo and snapping photos with family, they walked out of the tent as Americans.

Song Li Morris, a 20-year-old who grew up in Los Alamos, led the Pledge of Allegiance for the new citizens and became an extra, honorary participant in the naturalization ceremony.

Morris, who is studying nursing at a university in Texas, was born in China but was adopted by an American couple and brought to the U.S. as a citizen when she was 1. After the ceremony, she wished the new Americans congratulations and clutched her own reward — a folded American flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, a present gifted to each of the participants.

"Of course I knew what it means to be a citizen; it's more to reaffirm that I am a citizen," Morris said. "It was a really incredible opportunity for the Fourth of July. So patriotic."

Speakers at the ceremony, including Bandelier Superintendent Jason Lott and Armijo, urged the citizens to get involved with their communities, to vote and to use their new status to make the best possible future for their families — specifically, their children.

"We need to always remember that they are 100 percent of our future," Armijo said.

After the ceremony, Jesus Varela, an AT&T technician, stood with his wife and adolescent daughter on the patio behind the Bandelier visitors center. Varela, born in Mexico, has spent 35 years in the U.S., the last four of which have been in Bernalillo.

Family, he said, was central in his decision to become a citizen.

"To me, it's very important. We have more opportunities," Varela said. "It feels like I have completed something that was missing from my life in the U.S."

## **Fourth Of July Naturalization Ceremony In Portsmouth**

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — More than 100 people have celebrated Independence Day in New Hampshire by becoming U.S. citizens.

The Wednesday naturalization ceremony took place at at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth as part of the museum's annual "American Celebration."

Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, and Gov. Chris Sununu attended the ceremony set to be presided over by Judge Joseph Laplante. The 102 people becoming citizens come from 48 countries.

The museum also planned to host a patriotic parade and an old fashioned Field Day.

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## **On Independence Day In Annapolis, 30 People From 22 Countries Officially Become Americans**

By E.B. Furgurson III

[Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#), June 5, 2018

After an early morning Independence Day naturalization ceremony at William Paca House in Annapolis, 30 people from across the globe no longer yearn to breathe free.

They came from 22 countries — from Kenya to China, Bolivia to Nepal — to find a new home in Maryland.

Now they are all Americans.

Ahyauddin Ahmad's journey to the Annapolis ceremony on Wednesday began 18 years ago when he arrived in the United States from his home in Pakistan. Today, Ahmad lives in Potomac and is serving in the U.S. Army.

"Now I have become a citizen," said Ahmad, moments after taking the oath of citizenship. "I am thankful for this country to give me an opportunity.

"The most important thing is to be able to express freedom where some other places in the world you are not allowed to," he added. "And I am serving my country, I hope I will be good at it."

Ahmad was joined in the ceremony by Maria Paez, who emigrated from Colombia to the United States nearly six years ago. Paez lives in Rockville and works as an active duty U.S. Army nurse's assistant at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

2018 Severna Park 4th of July Parade

"I am so happy," she said.

Glenn Campbell, chief historian at Historic Annapolis, said this is the 13th year for hosting the naturalization ceremony on the 4th of July.

"We think it appropriate to host this ceremony in the shadow of Mr. Paca's house, one of the signers of the

Declaration of Independence,” Campbell said. “He helped create the country when he agreed to the declaration.”

Mr. Paca was portrayed at the ceremony by Matthew West, who greeted the citizenship candidates seated under a tent blocking them from the hot morning sun, which overwhelmed one of the four junior ROTC cadets from Annapolis High School and diminished the color guard to a trio.

West read the Declaration of Independence, signed 242 years ago, before the color guard presented the flag. Then the All Children’s Chorus of Annapolis led the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Robert Clark, president and CEO of Historic Annapolis, greeted the anxious citizens-to-be and congratulated them for “the bold, brave step you are about to take on your American journey.”

And with that, Greg Collett, director of the Baltimore district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, took the podium to administer the oath.

But before reciting the pledge along with the candidates he instructed each to stand, calling them out by country to add a dramatic punctuation to the event.

“Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark,” Collett said “Greece, Kenya, Nepal, Niger.”

He said afterwards he has sworn in new citizens “hundreds, if not thousands of times.”

“We swear in about 20,000 a year out of Baltimore,” Collett said. “That includes two or three a day at our office” plus the larger ceremonies like the Paca House affair on Wednesday.

Annapolis Town Crier Squire Frederick Taylor, who opened the ceremony also closed with this thought for the fresh Americans: “Go forth in peace and confidence. Good luck and godspeed.”

## **48 New Citizens Welcomed To America On July 4 At Carter Presidential Library**

By Tim Darnell

[WXIA-TV Atlanta](#), July 4, 2018

ATLANTA — Forty-eight people from 31 countries took the oath of citizenship Wednesday morning at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

The ceremony was part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Independence Day ceremony.

This year, the department celebrated the 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by welcoming more than 2,300 new U.S. citizens in more than 30 Independence Day-themed naturalization ceremonies across the country.

## **Twenty Immigrants Become U.S. Citizens In July 4th Ceremony**

By Andrew Kuczkowski

[Glens Falls \(NY\) Post-Star](#), July 4, 2018

STILLWATER — Wilfrido Omar Abreu Thompson left the Dominican Republic and came to the United States at the age of 12 with only a green card, his sister and the hope of living the American dream.

On Wednesday, the 32-year-old clutched his citizenship certificate with jubilation, knowing the opportunities he has ahead of him.

Saratoga National Historical Park hosted its Fourth of July Commemoration and 15th annual Citizenship Ceremony, where 20 immigrants from 14 different countries officially became United States citizens.

Thompson’s green card when he entered the United States in 1998 granted a 10-year limited citizenship. During that time, he earned his associates degree in business administration at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. He applied for a second green card and was approved. His sister urged him to become an official citizen and, acknowledging the further opportunities he could achieve, he obliged.

“This is a great country with a lot of opportunities and to become a citizen will allow me to get a federal position, better jobs,” Thompson said. “So I am excited.”

The ceremony hosted many speakers, including New York State Sen. Kathleen Marchione, State Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner and keynote speaker Priyanka Kumar, a junior at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut.

“The journey toward citizenship was not an easy one, and I probably don’t need to tell any one of you here,” Marchione began.

She spoke about her genealogy findings that her last name, which is her husband’s family name, was changed when his ancestors entered the country, for simplicity. Though Marchione said she won’t be changing her name, she acknowledged it as one of the small sacrifices some immigrants make to enjoy the nation’s plentiful benefits.

“Citizenship does not end with today’s ceremony or even voting in an election,” she said. “It’s simply the beginning of a wondrous lifelong journey.”

In her remarks, Woerner focused on the positive impact the new citizens can have on their communities and the nation.

“I know we are better off because you’re here and we are a richer country for all of your contributions,” Woerner said, “and your state, nation and communities will be enriched in the years to come.”

Kumar alluded to the motto of the United States, e pluribus unum, which is defined as “out of many, one.” In America, many different cultures are one.

Kumar, who was just tall enough to be seen over the podium and the microphones in front of her, said her family

emigrated from India with a dream and \$40. Her mother left a career in India as a teacher to nurture her children.

"They came for the famous American dream; not for themselves, but for their kids," she said. "... It was through (my mother's) sacrifice that the American dream became a reality for my brother and me, with my brother graduating from Harvard University and right now, for me being privileged to attend one of the most competitive private boarding schools in the country."

Her mother and father continued to better themselves and the United States. After leaving her teaching job and helping her children grow, Kumar's mother became a nurse and her father became an engineer.

"Beyond their fight for the American dream, they always managed to find ways to stay true to their Indian culture," Kumar added. "From cooking Indian food to wearing Indian clothes for Hindu holidays, in this I believe is what truly makes them American. Their ability to combine their new and old experiences into one big identity (taught me that) to be American is to be true to yourself."

After the ceremony, Thompson's 20-year endeavor to become a U.S. citizen came to an end. He overcame adversity, got an education, strived to be a citizen and heightened his ceiling for opportunity. On Thursday, he may return to his assistant production manager job near Albany with a new status, but the same old smile.

"I feel like this is a dream come true," he said. "I have achieved like a goal (in) becoming an American citizen. (It) not only makes me happy, but it gives me that joy, that special joy of 'Wow.'"

Andrew David Kuczkowski is the education reporter. Andrew can be reached at 518-742-3354. Follow Andrew on Twitter: @ByKuczkowski.

## **Local Restaurateur Can Now Add U.S. Citizenship To Resume**

By Sarah LeBlanc

[Augusta \(GA\) Chronicle](#), July 3, 2018

Jason Yang arrived in the U.S. 18 years ago with a dream of someday opening a restaurant. Now, he has four.

Jason Yang came to America with almost nothing but a dream.

At 18, he left his family in China's Fujian province in 2000 in search of his dream: owning his own restaurant.

"I wanted to stay in the U.S. and make my dream business," Yang said. "I just got here, I had zero, in my pocket I only had a couple hundred dollars and that's it. I was scared."

That dream began at a Jade Garden restaurant in New York's Chinatown, where Yang worked as a dishwasher and then cook. For years, he worked 12-hour days, seven days a week.

Eighteen years later, that work has paid off. Yang has made Georgia his home with his wife, two children, and four restaurants to his name.

Just as important, he can also now call the U.S. home.

Yang became a citizen June 19, the same date he married his wife, Jane Zhang, 13 years ago and opened his fourth restaurant, Teriyaki Japan in North Augusta, three years ago.

"When I received a letter from immigration and the schedule said June 19, I said oh my goodness, what a special day," Yang said.

The Graniteville resident said he applied for citizenship in March and began studying immediately for the 100-question test, which he took and passed June 4 in Charleston. On June 19, he attended the oath ceremony, where officials read his rights as an American citizen, with about 25 others.

Yang and Zhang married in 2005, just six months after she moved to the United States. Though the two lived in the same town in China and went to middle school together – and Zhang's aunt even lived next door to Yang's family – they hadn't met until a friend told him Zhang had moved to New York.

The two moved to Graniteville in 2008 and soon opened up their own Jade Garden restaurant. The business was open every day, and the pair worked hard to afford a house and save money for their growing family.

"In Jade Garden we were working seven days a week to get the business to grow," Zhang said.

About three months after that restaurant opened, Yang said, the business was a victim of an armed robbery. He said the two men who robbed the store took all their money.

"It was so hard in the beginning," Zhang said. "We were saying, 'Why, we're working so hard, we're working every day.'"

Yang didn't give up his dream. Over the past decade, he has opened two restaurants in Georgia – a Bourbon Street Grill in the Macon Mall and a Teriyaki Japan in the Houston County Galleria in Centerville – and the North Augusta Teriyaki Japan. He said his ultimate dream is opening restaurants across the country.

Yang said he applied for his citizenship now because he felt established in the U.S. and realized his home was here, not China. Zhang received her citizenship in 2015.

"Before, I wasn't ready to join the U.S. as a citizen, I was still a Chinese citizen," Yang said. "But after I think about I own businesses here, I have family here, I should stay here in the U.S. forever and never go back to China. Everything is here, my house, my business, my family."

Yang is like any parent in America. He takes pride in his family's success and beams over his son, who recently graduated from Byrd Elementary with academic distinction.

He is waiting on his passport so he can visit family in China, and he is excited to vote.

"It feels so good," Yang said of his citizenship. "I can say I'm an American now."

## 30 People Become U.S. Citizens During Independence Day-themed Ceremony In Greeley

By Sara Knuth

[Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#), July 3, 2018

Ricardo Melendez de la Torre smiles as he gains his citizenship during the naturalization ceremony Tuesday at Centennial Village, 1475 A St. in Greeley. Melendez was one of 14,000 people across America to become a new citizen Tuesday. (Joshua Polson/jpolson@greeleytribune.com)

Two-month-old Mahaila Garfield wore a red, white and blue dress designed with tiny stars and stripes on Tuesday, the day her mother became an American citizen.

As her dad, Alex, held Mahaila during a naturalization ceremony at Centennial Village in Greeley, where her mother, Vanessa, took the Oath of Allegiance, she slept. She didn't know it, but everything about her — right down to her name — represented her mom's journey to citizenship.

Proud to be an American

More than 14,000 people became U.S. citizens across the country July 3 in more than 75 ceremonies, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

With just a few extra letters added in, Mahaila's first name means "love" in the Philippines, where her mother was born. Her last name, Garfield, ties her to her great-great-great-great-grandfather on her dad's side, President Andrew Garfield.

Her great-grandfather landed on the Philippines during World War II. Decades after that, Mahaila's birthday came April 19, four days before her mom was supposed to take her U.S. citizenship test.

"We had to delay it, which is perfect right now," Vanessa said. "We made it, almost to the Fourth of July, with a baby."

She said they met just less than a decade earlier in Fort Collins, where they live now, while Vanessa was on a work trip for her former job at GoAbroad, a travel company with an office in the Philippines. On her trip, she met one of Alex's friends, who was working in the Fort Collins office. Vanessa Garfield raises her hand as she recites the oath during the naturalization ceremony Tuesday at Centennial Village, 1475 A St. in Greeley. (Joshua Polson/jpolson@greeleytribune.com)

"We all went out for drinks, and here we are after seven years," Alex said.

Their story was one of 30 represented during Tuesday's ceremony, where immigrants from 16 countries became

citizens. After hearing speeches from officials from the offices of U.S. Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo.; Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. the 30 took their last step toward becoming U.S. citizens by reciting the Oath of Allegiance, which asked them to renounce allegiance to foreign governments and promise to defend the Constitution.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, Weld District Court Judge Elizabeth Strobel, asked each of the residents to read the Constitution and about the history of the U.S., vote and participate in juries. Above all, she told them to share their stories.

"Tell us your stories because you're heroes," she said. "You're my heroes."

Andrew Lambrecht, director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office in Denver, highlighted all of the countries represented during the ceremony, saying each of the residents who traveled from them are making the U.S. better.

"Thank you for making the choice to become an American," he said, later adding that millions of other people still are seeking to follow the same path to citizenship. "We have these ceremonies here, hopefully, to inspire those who may be thinking about becoming citizens." Jose Luis Tello raises his hand as he is recognized during the naturalization ceremony Tuesday at Centennial Village, 1475 A St. in Greeley. (Joshua Polson/jpolson@greeleytribune.com)

Before the event, Cindy Welsh, a former outreach librarian for the High Plains Library District, said the district started hosting the ceremonies in 2014 to go along with citizen preparation classes offered by the libraries. With help from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office, the ceremonies invite immigrants from all over northern Colorado to participate.

For many of the new citizens, the ceremony followed months, years or even decades of waiting and studying before taking a citizenship test and completing an interview.

"I get choked up," Welsh said. "This is the American dream. It really is."

Evans resident Adip Dsouza, who is originally from India, attended the ceremony with his wife, Melissa Dsouza, and two children, Makenna and Nikhil.

He moved to the U.S. in 2003 to attend college in Texas. Shortly after that, he met Melissa in a computer science class.

"I asked her to study with me," he said. "Well, I wanted to go on a date, but that's the only way I could get her to go out with me."

When he finished school, part of him wanted to go back to India, but he knew it was time to leave that life behind him when he started a family.

"It's a beautiful life that we've started here, and I want to continue it," he said.

— Sara Knuth covers government for The Tribune. You can reach her at (970) 392-4412, [sknuth@greeleytribune.com](mailto:sknuth@greeleytribune.com) or on Twitter @SaraKnuth.

## 19 People Celebrate First Independence Day As American Citizens

[WOFL-TV Orlando \(FL\)](#), July 4, 2018

WINTER PARK, Fla. (FOX 35 WOFL) – The Fourth of July this year was a special day for more than a dozen Central Florida residents, as it is the first day they will celebrate the holiday as American citizens.

The ceremony, which took place Wednesday morning, was part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Annual Independence Day Celebration in Winter Park. 19 people from 12 different countries will become America's newest citizens by taking an oath of allegiance at this naturalization ceremony.

All 19 people had to pass a naturalization test filled with 100 civics questions and meet certain eligibility requirements, such as being at least 18-years-old, be able to read, write, and speak basic English, and be of good moral character. After this, each person will receive a certificate of citizenship and naturalization.

## Orlando City's Kay Rawlins Celebrates First Fourth Of July As U.S. Citizen

By George Diaz

[Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#), July 2, 2018

Kay Rawlins is the Queen of Orlando Soccer.

It's a great gig, but it's important to following the bouncing ball in other directions.

She is engaged in community activism as a member of the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness and other causes dear to her heart, like Cannonball Kids Cancer Foundation.

She helps raise a voice for the LGBTQ community, helping lead the charge to help fund an expansion of LGBT+ Center Orlando, among other projects.

She is a passionate about her soccer as well, obviously, as she cheers for her native England in the World Cup and laments the fact that her adopted homeland, the United States of America, failed to qualify.

And most importantly, she is a soul survivor, still standing strong despite a very public and contentious breakup in December of 2016, when her husband Phil Rawlins left her in the middle of a family vacation during the holidays to chase another life with another woman.

Phil and Kay were one of Central Florida's influential power couples before then, as co-founders of Orlando City Soccer Club.

Phil has gone off the grid and moved out of Central Florida. But don't underestimate the Power of One.

As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, Kay talks about another life-defining event — becoming a United States citizen on Jan. 12, 2018, her passion for helping others, and the flip side of getting through the painful and messy divorce.

We caught up at the Drunken Monkey Coffee Bar, where she had a big cup of java. The words "Coffee Pairs Nicely with Silence" was etched on the outside of the cup.

My apologies for messing up the quiet vibe.

Take us through the process of becoming a United States citizen?

I came to this country to 2004 in Austin, Texas, and that's when I started my Green Card process. I'm not very good sitting around and doing nothing but it did me a favor in a way because that got me learning about nonprofits. I started volunteering in two different nonprofits, including the Center for Child Protection. I ended up on their board. When we decided to start a team that's why community became such a huge piece and pillar of the club.

My Green Card was due for renewal in 2019, so I had to start thinking do I want to keep renewing it or do I want to vote? And that was the driving piece for me. As a Green Card holder, you do everything an American does – you pay your taxes, you exist in your community, but the one thing you can't do is vote. I want my vote to count.

What was the ceremony like?

I was actually more emotional than I thought it was going to be. Four of my good friends came. We were all sitting in a room waiting and Kelly [Cohen] arrived with flowers, and that was it. OK this is going to be more emotional than I thought. There were 50-something of us, all from different countries. They give you a packet and a little flag and they talk you through the ceremony. The guy I was sitting next to was from Haiti and the day before was when [Donald Trump] called it a shithole country or whatever it was. It was a positive day but that was raw. There was a guy I couldn't see but my friends could see. He was from the Philippines and he was waving his flag the whole time. He was so excited that this was happening. It was very emotional. It was a good day.

Was the application process difficult?

I did my application myself. I went online. I didn't need a lawyer. I answered a lot of questions, including those ridiculous ones. 'Have you ever been a prostitute? Have you ever procured the services of a prostitute?' What does that have to do with being a U.S. citizen? And looking at some of the politicians we've had, has anybody asked them that question?

After the test was over, the guy who conducted it leaned over and said, 'I'm a massive fan.' He was dying to tell me but he had to be very professional. He walked me out the door and it was chat-chat-chat about the team.

As July 4th approaches, any conflicted feelings? It could be viewed as the ultimate betrayal (smirk).

Ever since I've lived here, people have asked me if I celebrate July 4th. I'm like 'well...' You can look at it two ways. Do I celebrate that we separated? Not really. To me, that was so long ago, I hope there is still a good relationship between the two countries. And I hope there will be going onto the future. It's a holiday. It's fun. I know a lot of friends with animals who prefer silent fireworks I have a lot of friends whose dogs get scared.

Your spirit of community service has roots in England as I recall?

In England I had my own business. I left school at 18. I left college. I went straight to work at a bank. I had 10 amazing years. Then I had my kids. I answered an ad to volunteer one day a week at a private preschool. And the rest is history as they say. One morning turned into two days turned into three days. Then the lady who ran the center wanted to retire and wanted someone to take it over as much as she did. So she sent me to college when I was 31. I must have been crazy. Seriously I look back and thought how did I do that? I was in college. I had two kids. I was managing the center and I was earning an early childhood development degree and a management degree all at the same time. I had no idea how I did it. I don't know how I did it. I ended up owning that pre-school with a business partner and opening a second one because we just couldn't cope with the numbers. Our waiting list was ridiculous.

How does the community piece relate to the soccer team?

Sitting down and writing up 'here's what this team needs to stand for, here are going to be our principles,' the community was front and center all the time. You have such a unique opportunity. Not back then because we were minor league, but as you grow and gather more attention, you can become that voice. You have such an incredible platform to be able, hopefully, to do good things.

The LGBTQ piece is one of the things that we obviously push forward. Health and wellness is huge for us a well, but our mission is about underserved communities and they're definitely an underserved community. Special Olympics are another one. Women are an underserved community. We wanted our mission to be broader. Because when someone says 'underserved community,' they think the poor, but that's not what it means to us.

Pulse threw everything into such sharp focus, and I think winning that Stuart Scott Inspired Award made us more committed to being a voice and standing up for our community. It's one of the reason I love soccer. I look at our crowd. We are the United Nations. We are every color. We are every religion. We are every creed. We are every sexuality. We are every walk of life. You have attorneys next to brick layers next to someone serving at McDonald's.

It's this amazing eclectic group. If you are wearing purple, you are in our tribe. It can bring people together in a way no other sport can.

What are the positive things that came out of that painful journey of the unexpected breakup and divorce?

Realizing how much love and support I had personally was amazing. And I have talked about it a few times. The first time was at an "I Am Brave" conference. I was asked about the highlights of being here. I talked about 62,000 people at the Citrus Bowl. Building the stadium. I was asked about some of the lows. I said that would be my husband walking out on me at Christmas completely blindsiding me. You could hear the room go 'wooh.' I was asked how I coped with it. I said this is when you find out who your friends really are. I had no idea mine was as big as it was. I would wake up every morning and I would have 15 text messages, 20 messages in my inbox. I had people turning up on my doorstep. It was incredible.

That wasn't exactly a surprise but the level of love and support was off the charts, and that's what got me through. People kept showing up and lifting me up...I did go to counseling a few times, but to be honest my best friends were my counselors. It's definitely been a journey but I am involved in so many things, there's no time to sit around and mope.

There's that responsibility piece. I'm on this committee, and this committee, and you can't sink into a funk and not get out of bed. As tempting as that may have been sometimes it's not me. I'm such a competitor. And that would have felt like he had won. And he's not going to win.

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## 31 People Earn US Citizenship

By Krystal Paco

[KUAM-TV Dededo \(GUM\)](#), July 3, 2018

For some it's the biggest day of their lives – (and no, we're not talking about getting married). It's a different kind of commitment – one to the United States of America. In a very special ceremony at the District Court of Guam on Tuesday, 31 men and women took the Oath of Allegiance.

Meet America's newest citizens, just in time for Independence Day. Men and women – a majority from the Philippines – took the Oath of Allegiance on Tuesday during a special Fourth of July Naturalization Ceremony at the District Court of Guam. Among the crowd of newly minted citizens, a father and daughter.

21-year-old Catherine Sibal Capati, an aspiring engineer, grinned from ear to ear as she stood by her biggest inspiration, her dad, Victoriano Payumo Capati, Jr. "Because of him, actually," she said. "He studied engineering while he was in his teens but he wasn't able to continue because of financial problems. But he really inspires me to become an engineer, so I wanted to be like him someday."

For the younger Capati, U.S. citizenship means greater educational opportunities for her as a student. "It's easier for me to travel, especially for my research or if I want to go for a higher degree in my engineering program," she stated.

The Pampanga natives didn't know they'd fulfill their American dream together. "It's very exciting. And it's really a happy day for the both of us. I didn't really know until yesterday that I would be with him today," she said.

Also naturalized on Tuesday, Yus Man Sani from Indonesia. He met his wife while working in Saipan. They've been married with kids for nearly two decades, but he's the last in his family to become a U.S. citizen. "It's very hard to describe right now. Very happy to be a part of the United States as a citizen," he said proudly and humbly.

The special day was capped off with a keynote address from U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico Chief Judge Gustavo Gelpi, who said, "You have seen nowadays, immigration is getting harder – there's more requirements, so all of you have passed the test. You are citizens because you choose to be citizens – that is probably even more important and admirable, and sometimes US-born US citizens by birth don't recognize the importance of that citizenship.

"You're also just as American."

## **DHS NEWS**

### **The U.S. Isn't Prepared For The Growing Threat Of Drones**

By Kirstjen M. Nielsen

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

Kirstjen M. Nielsen is secretary of homeland security.

Drone technology offers the potential to change our world — from enabling historic transformations in e-commerce to faster emergency response. But the technology also has a dark side. It can be used to spy on us, to threaten our critical infrastructure, or to attack crowds and public places.

For years, the Department of Homeland Security has worried about the dangers of unmanned aerial systems, and we have sought the legal authority to protect Americans against corrupted aerial devices. Today I have a pressing message for Congress: Time is running out.

As secretary of homeland security, I can tell you that threat is outpacing our ability to respond. Without congressional action, the U.S. government will remain unable to identify, track and mitigate weaponized or dangerous drones in our skies.

Just last month, officials at U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported a spike in the use of drones at our borders. Transnational criminals are undoubtedly exploiting these systems to search for security gaps so they can avoid our officers and sneak into the country undetected.

Criminals are also using them to smuggle drugs. Last year, Border Patrol agents arrested a 25-year-old man for using a drone to ferry tens of thousands of dollars' worth of methamphetamine across the southwest border, raising the specter that other dangerous goods could be transported the same way.

Worse still, terrorist groups such as the Islamic State aspire to use armed drones against our homeland and U.S. interests overseas. They have deployed bomb-laden aerial devices on the battlefield to surveil, disrupt and kill opposing forces, and they are sharing that expertise with others.

We have already worked with our partners to stop terrorist plots that could have involved drone technology. But we need to acknowledge that our first and last chance to stop a malicious drone might be during its final approach to a target.

Unfortunately, the laws on the books today were not written with weaponized drones in mind. As a result, the nation's two biggest law enforcement departments — DHS and the Justice Department — have their hands tied when it comes to protecting Americans.

While we do have certain limited capabilities for scanning the skies for rogue drones, we largely lack the updated tools and most sophisticated authorities to monitor and mitigate inbound threats.

For instance, DHS should be able to access signals being transmitted between a nefarious drone and its ground controller to accurately geolocate both quickly. This could allow authorities to take control of the device or stop its operator on the ground to prevent a potential attack.

Yet current legal constraints prohibit us from doing so and from addressing other drone-threat scenarios, such as drones configured to operate without a human operator, which will require a separate set of solutions.

Worse still, we are prevented from even testing certain drone-defense technologies where we really need them, such as in urban environments to protect large gatherings and public events.

Some in Congress recognize these problems and have stepped up. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Tex.), among others, have championed legislative fixes to give DHS and the Justice Department the authority to develop, test and deploy advanced and effective counter-drone technology.

The Defense Department already has similar authorities to protect U.S. forces overseas and certain domestic facilities. But it's time we had them to protect Americans here at home.

We cannot afford to wait. Our enemies are aware of our vulnerabilities and eager to exploit them. So let's stop admiring the problem and start solving it. The House and Senate should approve a legislative fix at the earliest possible opportunity.

Drones will soon become a part of everyday life. Before then, let's make sure they don't become an everyday threat.

## **Immigrant Mothers Were Moved Outdoors During Kirstjen Nielsen's Secretive Visit To Detention. They Shouted For Help To No Avail.**

By Ryan Devereaux And Debbie Nathan

[Intercept](#), July 3, 2018

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen made a series of secretive visits to South Texas immigrant detention centers on Friday. One of the facilities the secretary visited, in Los Fresnos, houses parents whose children were taken from them under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" family separation policy. Many of the detainees there are women, and many desperately wanted to speak with Nielsen. Instead, they were moved to a distant soccer field, where they shouted to Nielsen for help but were too far away for her to hear them.

Reporters could not talk to Nielsen either, even though, as confirmed to The Intercept by a DHS press secretary on Monday, she toured two Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers for adults in South Texas and a shelter in Brownsville that houses young children separated from their parents. Additionally, ICE confirmed to The Intercept on Tuesday that more than 60 women were moved during the secretary's visit, though the agency claimed the move was for the purpose of "recreation."

Nielsen's visits happened with no public announcement, though tips and rumors abounded among the press in Brownsville. Reporter Mark Reagan, of the Brownsville Herald, told The Intercept that he learned from confidential sources that Nielsen would be at ICE's Port Isabel Service Processing Center, a razor-wired facility on desolate land near the Gulf of Mexico that can hold as many as 1,175 adult detainees, in prison-like conditions.

Reagan drove 30 miles from Brownsville to the detention center, but his reporting did not go as planned. He expected to get some quotes from Nielsen, but when he got to Port Isabel, no one handed out talking points or conducted a press conference. Instead, Reagan saw official-looking vehicles pull up, but it was impossible to see who was in them. The vehicles departed after two hours, with the passengers' identities still a mystery.

And they were a mystery to the prisoners at Port Isabel, too. Under an agreement between the Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, Port Isabel has been designated as "the primary facility" housing parents separated from their children as part of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" campaign, which began in May and ended last month.

Four women who were detained there on Friday have since communicated with The Intercept. Each recounted

being told by guards that afternoon to tidy up their dormitories. They were then directed onto a soccer field bathed in glaring sun with temperatures in the high 90s. One woman heard another say she did not want to go. "But the guard said we had to, that it was an order because some important officials were coming," the woman said.

Once on the field, the women said, they saw from a distance a group of about 10 people dressed in street clothes. Details of the group's appearance were hard to make out, but one detainee said she saw a "tall woman with shoulder-length, blond hair."

Among the detainees were two women who have no idea where their teenage sons are being held and have not talked with them, as well as a woman whose 6-year-old is hundreds of miles away and unable to speak to her during calls from the child's shelter, because he only cries when he gets on the phone. When The Intercept spoke with these women, none of them had lawyers.

On the soccer field, the women and dozens of other detainees assumed that the visitors were important people who could influence the U.S. president. So they began shouting together in Spanish: "Ayúdenos!" "Help us!"

Two women said their group was too far away from the officials to be heard. Two others said they believed that they and the other detainees had been put on the field so they would be hidden.

In an email to The Intercept, ICE's Central and South Texas spokesperson, Nina Pruneda, said, "After coordinating with U.S. Secret Service special agents supporting DHS Secretary Kristjen Nielsen's June 29 visit to the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas, ICE officers briefly moved detainees from one of the dorms to the soccer field for recreation. About 62 ICE detainees were involved; Secretary Nielsen spoke to various detainees while she toured the facility."

The women who spoke to The Intercept indicated that Friday's events were hardly recreational. They said they were kept on the field for two hours, until the visitors left. They did not get a chance to see if the official visit was publicized because, as two of them told The Intercept, they have no access to news broadcasts on television. "We ask the guards to turn the TV to a news channel, but they don't," said one woman. "Sometimes they do, but then they change it back, like to the World Cup," said another. "Or they put on the news for a little bit but then turn the TV off," said a third.

ProPublica reported yesterday that additional Port Isabel detainees said they were only allowed to watch telenovelas and English programming. One detainee told The Intercept that she did not know about Trump's June 20 executive order halting family separation, or about an emergency injunction mandating that parents and children be reunited by July 26, until informed by The Intercept this past weekend. Jenn Elzea, a spokesperson for ICE, told

ProPublica that, according to ICE detention standard guidelines, “All television viewing schedules shall be subject to the facility administrator’s approval.”

After the official visitors left Port Isabel on Friday afternoon, Reagan drove to the Southwest Key Casa El Presidente facility, a sprawling building tucked into a sparsely populated section of Brownsville. It holds some 80 children ages 10 and under, about half of whom were separated from their parents after they came as families across the border. At Casa El Presidente, a caravan of state and local police cars maneuvered some SUVs so that reporters could not see who was inside. No one would confirm or deny that Nielsen was present.

In an emailed statement to The Intercept on Monday, DHS press secretary Tyler Q. Houlton said Nielsen visited the border detention centers “late last week to see once again first-hand how the men and women of ICE, CBP and HHS are prioritizing the health, safety and welfare of all of those in our care and custody.”

## **Dozens Of Immigrant Women Moved Outdoors During Nielsen Visit To Detention Center: Report**

By Avery Anapol  
[The Hill](#), July 4, 2018

Dozens of detained immigrant women who were separated from their children were reportedly moved out to a soccer field during Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen’s visit to a detention center last week.

Nielsen made several visits in secret to detention centers in Texas on Friday, The Intercept reported.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials confirmed to The Intercept that more than 60 women were moved during Nielsen’s visit to a Los Fresnos facility for recreational purposes.

Four women detained at the Port Isabel facility told The Intercept that guards ordered them to a soccer field at the facility, saying that “important officials” were coming to the center.

The woman said they saw a “tall woman with shoulder-length, blond hair,” apparently Nielsen, and that the group attempted to yell “ayúdenos” to the group of officials, meaning “help us” in Spanish.

A spokesperson for ICE told The Intercept that Nielsen spoke to some detainees while touring the facility and that some of the women were moved outside for recreation. But the detained woman who spoke to The Intercept said that they were kept on the field for two hours in temperatures in the high 90s.

Nielsen, who has faced major scrutiny over the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy, did not publicly announce the visits. Reporters who had gotten a tip

about the visit told The Intercept that they were not given any information or permitted to speak to the secretary.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security told The Intercept that the purpose of Nielsen’s visit was so she could see “first-hand how the men and women of ICE, [Customs and Border Protection] and [the Department of Health and Human Services] are prioritizing the health, safety and welfare of all of those in our care and custody.”

## **Immigrants Say They Were Forced Outside While DHS Secretary Toured Detention Center**

By Max Jaeger  
[New York Post](#), July 3, 2018

Immigrant women separated from their kids and detained on the Texas border say they were forced to stand in the baking sun for hours while Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen toured their detention facility — all so Nielsen wouldn’t hear their tales of woe, according to a report.

Nielsen on Friday visited the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, which houses parents separated from their kids under President Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy on illegal border crossing.

But before she made her rounds, dozens of detainees were rounded up, marched outside and held in a field for two hours as temperatures soared into the 90s, four women among them told The Intercept.

Two of the women had been separated from their teenage sons, and a third was divided from her 6-year-old boy.

They wanted to remain inside to talk to Nielsen, “but the guard said we had to, that it was an order because some important officials were coming,” one woman told the outlet.

While in the yard, the women saw about 10 people wearing street clothes — including one with blond, shoulder-length hair similar to Nielsen’s — enter the facility and leave about two hours later.

They shouted “help us” in Spanish at the person they believed to be Nielsen, but the women said they were too far away to be heard.

see also

Young immigrants detained at juvenile detention center allege abuses

WASHINGTON — Immigrant children as young as 14 housed at...

Two women said they believe they were sent outside so they would be hidden.

ICE confirmed to The Intercept that Nielsen was at the facility Friday, but said the women went out for “recreation.”

“After coordinating with U.S. Secret Service special agents supporting DHS Secretary Kristjen Nielsen’s June 29 visit to the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos,

Texas, ICE officers briefly moved detainees from one of the dorms to the soccer field for recreation,” ICE Central and South Texas spokeswoman Nina Pruneda told The Intercept.

“About 62 ICE detainees were involved; Secretary Nielsen spoke to various detainees while she toured the facility.”

## **Migrant Women Reportedly Kept From Speaking To Kirstjen Nielsen As She Toured Facility**

By Willa Frej

[Huffington Post](#), July 4, 2018

Female migrants in a Texas detention center were reportedly moved to a soccer field last week to be kept away from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen as she toured the facility.

They screamed at her for help, The Intercept reported on Tuesday, but the field was too far away for her to hear them.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed for The Intercept that 62 women were moved during Nielsen’s visit on Friday to the center in Los Fresnos, saying it was for recreational purposes. Four of the women, however, told the news outlet that they were ushered onto the field and kept there for two hours despite temperatures in the high 90s.

“But the guard said we had to, that it was an order because some important officials were coming,” one woman said.

Nielsen’s schedule on Friday included visits to two ICE centers for adults and one shelter in Brownsville, Texas, for children separated from their parents as part of the Trump administration’s zero tolerance policy on unauthorized immigration.

Reports from inside these facilities are scant, since reporters are rarely granted access, but the news that has leaked out points to deliberate efforts to keep the outside world from knowing what’s happening inside and vice versa. Many parents, ProPublica reported this week, still have not been able to reach their children by phone. Detainees said that the detention centers don’t have internet access and guards switch off televisions when immigration is mentioned.

A judge ruled last week that the approximately 2,000 children still separated from their parents must be reunited with them by the end of the month, but it is unclear whether that process has begun. Immigration lawyers told HuffPost that authorities are telling migrant parents that they must sign voluntary deportation orders if they want to see their children again.

## **BORDER SECURITY**

### **Man Who Pointed Laser At CBP Helicopter Pleads Guilty**

By LORENZO ZAZUETA-CASTRO

[McAllen \(TX\) Monitor](#), July 4, 2018

McALLEN — Ten seconds of mischief might land a Hidalgo man in federal prison for up to five years.

That’s the fate Apolonio Barrera Padron faces after he pleaded guilty on Tuesday morning to one count of aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft during a mid-February event near Hidalgo.

Standing before U.S. District Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Barrera, a graduate of Valley View High School, changed his original plea on May 30 of not guilty of the one count, to guilty.

In exchange, the government, represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Lindemuth on Tuesday, agreed to reduce Barrera’s criminal offense level by two levels at the time of his sentencing, court records show.

The 24-year-old man made his initial appearance in connection with this charge in May, nearly three months after U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested him at his residence in Hidalgo after a beam of light illuminated the cockpit of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter in February.

Authorities said that just before 8 p.m. Feb. 17, the pilot of a CBP helicopter that was patrolling the Rio Grande Valley sector reported a green laser beam illuminating his cockpit for approximately 5 to 10 seconds, and attempted to locate the source.

“The CBP aircrew, who were flying under night vision goggles, located the source of the laser beam and trained their Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera system on two individuals in the backyard of a residence,” the complaint states. “While keeping the individuals under surveillance with their FLIR, the aircrew requested assistance from Border Patrol ground units in identifying the person(s) responsible for the laser strike.”

Subsequently, Border Patrol agents and Hidalgo Police officers made contact with Barrera at his residence, where he admitted to using the green laser pointer and aiming it at the helicopter.

FBI agents interviewed Barrera less than two weeks later, where he admitted to directing the laser beam at the aircraft, the complaint states.

Hinojosa accepted Barrera’s plea and set his sentencing for Sept. 10, where he could face a maximum of five years in federal prison, with a possible three years of supervised release, and up to a maximum \$250,000 fine.

Barrera’s guilty plea comes less than a week after Ruth Ann Hopp was denied bond in a similar laser pointer case.

Hopp, who was arrested June 22 after she was caught pointing a laser pointer at both private aircrafts, and that of Customs and Border Protection on April 28, 2018, made her initial appearance June 25, and was denied bond during a hearing last Thursday, when she appeared before U.S. Magistrate Peter E. Ormsby, court records show.

Hopp, who has arrests dating back to 2006 for assault, trespassing, forgery and burglary of habitation, has no prior convictions, public records show.

The 46-year-old McAllen resident faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Barrera, who does not have a prior federal criminal history, currently has three misdemeanor cases pending in Hidalgo State District Court related to driving while intoxicated, and possession of a controlled substance charges from an Oct. 31, 2017 incident.

Barrera is represented by Assistant Federal Public Defender Juan Jose Becerra.

lzazueta@themonitor.com

## **Agents Protect Two Juveniles From Human Trafficking**

By Elly Morillo

[KYMA-TV Yuma \(AZ\)](#), July 3, 2018

YUMA, Ariz. —

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Yuma Central Processing Center identified two unaccompanied alien children believed to be victims of human trafficking on Sunday at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Agents arrested eight subjects after they illegally crossed into the United States near the San Luis Port of Entry and were then transported to the Yuma Central Processing Center.

A BP agent interviewed one of the subjects, a 16-year-old male, who gave a written phone number for a person he claimed was a relative living in the U.S.

The agent called the number and spoke to a female who claimed to be the relative. After questioning, the agent was able to establish that the female was not in fact a relative and was impersonating one in hopes of having the juvenile released to her.

The juvenile eventually admitted that the woman was not a relative, and that his parents had arranged for him to be smuggled from Guatemala to Michigan in order to perform unspecified work for an unidentified person.

Agents later spoke to a second juvenile from the original group of eight, a 17-year-old male. The second minor had an almost identical story as the 16-year-old to include the same alleged relative and phone number.

Both juveniles were processed as unaccompanied alien children.

## **AVIATION SECURITY**

### **TSA Screened A Record Number Of Passengers Ahead Of The Fourth Of July Holiday**

By Fredrick Kunkle

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

The Transportation Security Administration made it official: The Friday before the long weekend (for some) ahead of Independence Day was the second-busiest day in the agency's history.

Airlines, tour groups and others have been predicting that record numbers of people would fly this year, and the TSA confirms that is so: 2.67 million air travelers passed through airport checkpoints on June 29, the highest number since more than 2.7 million passengers were screened on the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2004. The agency also said that the week of June 24 to 30 was the busiest on record.

The record comes as the TSA has fully implemented a policy requiring passengers to remove all electronic devices bigger than a cellphone from their carry-on bags and — at least at some airports — their bags of Cheetos and other snacks. The TSA is also urging passengers to get to the airport at least two hours early to ensure they don't miss their flights.

## **IMMIGRATION POLICY**

### **Two House Democrats Calling For ICE's Abolition Become Latest Target Of White House Tweets**

By John Wagner And Elise Viebeck

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

For a second day in a row, the White House used its official Twitter account to take aim at Democratic lawmakers who have spoken out against its immigration policies.

The latest targets were Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), who announced last week that they would introduce legislation to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency that has drawn the ire of a growing number of Democrats.

“@repblumenauer, why are you supporting something that would protect drug smugglers?” a White House tweet said. “You must not know what CBP and ICE really do.”

The tweet included a link to a recent press release about the seizure of a large amount of crystal methamphetamine by Customs and Border Protection.

“@repblumenauer, why are you supporting something that would protect drug smugglers? You must not know what CBP and ICE really do. Here is one example:

<https://t.co/CdNRhkOcbu>— The White House (@WhiteHouse) July 3, 2018

In a similar tweet, Pocan was asked why he is “supporting human smuggling.”

“You must not know that ICE serves as the leading U.S. law enforcement agency responsible for the fight against it,” said the tweet, which provided a link to an ICE Web page about “moving human beings as cargo.”

@repmarkpocan, are you supporting human smuggling? You must not know that ICE serves as the leading U.S. law enforcement agency responsible for the fight against it. Here is a link to help you out: <https://t.co/Hc6QoHXTZH>— The White House (@WhiteHouse) July 3, 2018

Tuesday’s tweets came a day after the White House took aim at two potential 2020 Democratic presidential contenders: Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.).

While President Trump routinely uses his personal Twitter account to tangle with lawmakers, the White House has been criticized for using official social media accounts for partisan purposes. Trump has said repeatedly in recent days that he thinks immigration will be a potent issue for Republicans in this year’s congressional elections.

In tweets posted Monday afternoon, the White House defended immigration authorities and called out Warren and Harris, who have denounced the administration for separating migrant families who cross the border.

“@SenWarren, why are you supporting criminals moving weapons, drugs, and victims across our nation’s borders? You must not know what ICE really does,” the White House tweeted, linking to a Web page for ICE’s Border Enforcement Security Task Force.

Warren has joined calls to abolish ICE, saying at a rally over the weekend that the immigration system must be rebuilt “from top to bottom.”

A separate tweet from the White House addressed Harris on Monday. “@SenKamalaHarris, why are you supporting the animals of MS-13? You must not know what ICE really does,” @WhiteHouse tweeted, linking to an ICE press release about the deportation of a man with ties to the MS-13 gang.

Harris replied: “As a career prosecutor, I actually went after gangs and transnational criminal organizations. That’s being a leader on public safety. What is not, is ripping babies from their mothers.”

Harris was attorney general of California and district attorney of San Francisco before she was elected to the Senate in 2016.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), another lawmaker considering a 2020 presidential bid, also spoke out against ICE on Tuesday, noting in a tweet that he voted against its establishment in 2002.

“Now, it is time to do what Americans overwhelmingly want: abolish the cruel, dysfunctional immigration system we have today and pass comprehensive immigration reform,” Sanders said.

In announcing his legislation with Pocan last week, Blumenauer said that “Trump and his administration have made the agency so toxic that it’s time to abolish ICE and start over.”

Blumenauer — who represents Portland, Ore., which has seen some of the most aggressive anti-ICE protests in recent weeks — has also been a vocal opponent of the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” policy that has led to family separations at the border.

“Trump perpetrated a human rights violation,” he said in a recent tweet. “Families ripped apart. Kids detained in cages. No plan to bring them back together. This crisis is NOT over. Demand an end to Trump’s cruel policies.”

Pocan was quick to respond to the White House tweet Tuesday afternoon with one of his own.

“FACT: @realDonaldTrump has so misused ICE that the agency can no longer effectively target human trafficking & security threats. Even ICE’s own agents agree,” he wrote. “Under my legislation, these responsibilities would be transferred to other agencies that already fight human trafficking.”

FACT: @realDonaldTrump has so misused ICE that the agency can no longer effectively target human trafficking & security threats. Even ICE’s own agents agree.

Under my legislation, these responsibilities would be transferred to other agencies that already fight human trafficking. [pic.twitter.com/KN8U0xsHhm](https://pic.twitter.com/KN8U0xsHhm)— Rep. Mark Pocan (@repmarkpocan) July 3, 2018

## White House Uses Twitter Account To Push Back At Democrats

By Ken Thomas

[Associated Press](#), July 3, 2018

The White House is using its official Twitter handle to target Democratic lawmakers who have criticized President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, drawing complaints that government resources are being used to undercut potential 2020 presidential rivals.

The White House Twitter handle, which has more than 17.3 million followers, falsely accused California Sen. Kamala Harris on Monday of “supporting the animals of MS-13,” a violent gang that the president has sought to eradicate.

In a separate tweet, the White House account erroneously asserted Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren was “supporting criminals moving weapons, drugs, and victims” across the border. Warren has called for the swift reunification of immigrant children and parents separated at the border.

In response, Harris pointed to her work as a prosecutor who “went after gangs and transnational criminal organizations.”

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## **‘Abolish ICE’ Demands From Democrats Draw Sharp White House Rebuke**

By Felicia Sonmez, John Wagner And Elise Viebeck  
[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

The White House on Tuesday escalated its attacks on Democrats for their calls to abolish the federal immigration enforcement agency as Republicans tried to shift the debate from President Trump’s widely criticized family-separation policy to border security.

In a rare use of an official Twitter account, the White House targeted two House Democrats, Reps. Earl Blumenauer (Ore.) and Mark Pocan (Wis.), who announced last week that they would introduce legislation to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The broadsides came a day after the White House took aim at two potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidates, Sens. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) and Kamala D. Harris (Calif.). Warren has called for abolishing the federal agency charged with detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants, while Harris has said it should be reexamined.

Trump suggested this past weekend that the Democratic calls to abolish ICE would hurt the party in the midterm elections because ICE targets violent gangs. In the days since, the White House and the Republican National Committee hammered Democrats as the party tried to turn the issue to the GOP’s political advantage.

One senior White House official over the weekend called it “a political suicide march” for Democrats.

In a tweet directed at Blumenauer on Tuesday, the official White House account asked the lawmaker, “why are you supporting something that would protect drug smugglers?”

“You must not know what CBP and ICE really do,” the tweet continued. It included a link to a recent press release about the seizure of a large amount of crystal methamphetamine by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Blumenauer represents Portland, which has seen some of the most aggressive anti-ICE protests in recent weeks.

In a similar tweet, Pocan was asked why he is “supporting human smuggling.”

“You must not know that ICE serves as the leading U.S. law enforcement agency responsible for the fight against it,” said the tweet, which provided a link to an ICE Web page about “moving human beings as cargo.”

While Trump routinely uses his personal Twitter account to tangle with lawmakers, the White House has been criticized for using official social media accounts for partisan purposes.

The GOP attacks came as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Tuesday joined the growing list of potential 2020 presidential contenders speaking out against ICE. After stopping short of calling for dismantling it last week, Sanders changed course with a tweet that made note of his vote against the agency’s establishment in 2002.

“Now, it is time to do what Americans overwhelmingly want: abolish the cruel, dysfunctional immigration system we have today and pass comprehensive immigration reform,” Sanders said.

The back-and-forth over ICE marks the second time in as many weeks that Democrats have found themselves divided over their messaging ahead of the November midterms, when they hope to recapture the House and, in a longer shot, the Senate.

Last week, it was a debate over civility in politics that had establishment Democrats such as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.) calling for restraint while liberal activists pushed for a more confrontational approach against Trump administration officials.

This week, as cries of “Abolish ICE!” on the left have ramped up, some Democrats are worried that those calls leave members of their party — particularly their potential White House candidates — vulnerable to Republican attacks that they are weak on border security.

“I’m not convinced that calls for the abolishment of ICE while kids are suffering right now down at the border is the right way to go,” said Democratic strategist Jim Manley, who served as a longtime aide to former Senate majority leader Harry M. Reid (Nev.). “There’s a real crisis here that you need to address, and all you’re doing is giving Republicans a shiny object to distract from what’s going on.”

Public polling shows Democrats retaining an advantage over Republicans on the broader issue of immigration policy. According to a Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday, 58 percent of registered voters disapprove of Trump’s handling of immigration while 39 percent approve — figures that have fluctuated little from where they stood 10 months ago.

Sixty percent of those surveyed say they disapprove of the way Trump has handled the separation of migrant children from their parents. After an international uproar over his administration’s “zero tolerance” policy, Trump reversed course last month and signed an executive order halting family separations.

The outcry over the issue has prompted dozens of lawmakers to make visits to inspect government-run shelters for migrant children. On Tuesday, an official with the

Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for the shelters, wrote a letter to the chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary committees stating that the multiple visits have put a strain on the department's staff.

"Nearly 500 work hours have been spent facilitating congressional visits to facilities for more than 70 Members of Congress," Matt Bassett, HHS assistant secretary for legislation, wrote in the letter, adding that "many of these hours would otherwise have been spent" by HHS staff on work related to reunification and the care of children.

Yet as the focus has turned from separations to ICE in recent days, Trump has said repeatedly that he thinks immigration will be a potent issue for Republicans in this year's congressional elections.

In a speech in West Virginia on Tuesday, Trump spent several minutes praising ICE, describing its agents as "tough people" whose work involves "liberating" towns from the grip of MS-13 and other gangs.

"And then I hear Democrats saying, 'We want to abandon ICE.' We're not abandoning ICE, and we're not abandoning our law enforcement. Just the opposite," Trump said.

The RNC was also quick to weigh in, writing in an email that Sanders's apparent move leftward in calling for changes to ICE "should be a glaring sign Democrats have a serious problem on their hands."

David Weigel and Amy Goldstein contributed to this report.

## Markey Also Calls For Replacing ICE

By Jamie Halper

[Boston Globe](#), July 3, 2018

US Senator Edward J. Markey on Tuesday joined a growing chorus of Democrats who have called for overhauling Immigration and Customs Enforcement, calling the agency a "deportation army" that must be dismantled and reconstructed.

"It's meant to be there in order to protect against drug dealers, to protect against human traffickers," Markey said at a press conference. "It's not meant to have every person walking the streets of our state or our country waiting for their case to be heard to be fearful that they can be apprehended in the middle of the night."

The Malden Democrat's call follows that of US Senator Elizabeth Warren, who said during a weekend protest in Boston that the country needs to "rebuild our immigration system from top to bottom" and replace ICE with something that "reflects our morality and values."

Markey, who spoke to reporters after his weekend trip to the Mexican border to visit detention facilities, also had harsh words for President Trump.

The White House's "zero tolerance" policy for those who cross the border illegally has resulted in the separation

of children from parents as the adults are prosecuted. The president signed an executive order last month to end the separations while mandating prosecution of the adults.

"What is happening at the border with those separated families is a complete failure of an already broken system," Markey said. "It is inhumane, it is un-American, and it is entirely Donald's Trump's fault."

Markey said he toured facilities in the Texas cities of Port Isabel, McAllen, and Brownsville, delivering cards to children from religious groups, community groups, and Massachusetts children.

Markey said ICE "has no plan" to comply with a court-ordered mandate that children be returned to their parents.

Last month, a federal judge ruled the government had 14 days to return children under 5 years old to their parents and 30 days to reunite all other children. Parents must be permitted to speak to their children within 10 days if they were not already in contact.

"This administration has not given any agency any guidance as to how to reunify these families," Markey said.

He said federal officials should assemble an inventory of separated children and parents, followed by a reunification plan.

Warren and US Representatives Joe Kennedy III, Katherine Clark, and Michael Capuano have also visited the border to protest the separation of families. Jamie Halper can be reached at [jamie.halper@globe.com](mailto:jamie.halper@globe.com). Follow her on Twitter @jamiedhalper.

## Sen. Sanders Calls For Restructuring ICE As Part Of Immigration Overhaul

By Brett Samuels

[The Hill](#), July 3, 2018

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Tuesday called for restructuring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of a broader immigration overhaul, but he stopped short of calling for the elimination of the federal agency.

In a series of tweets, Sanders escalated his rhetoric opposing ICE, part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as more lawmakers on the left call for the agency to be abolished.

"In 2002 I voted against the creation of DHS and the establishment of ICE," Sanders tweeted. "That was the right vote. Now, it is time to do what Americans overwhelmingly want: abolish the cruel, dysfunctional immigration system we have today and pass comprehensive immigration reform."

"That will mean restructuring the agencies that enforce our immigration laws, including ICE," he added. "We must not be about tearing small children away from their families. We must not be about deporting DREAMers, young people who have lived in this country virtually their entire lives."

That will mean restructuring the agencies that enforce our immigration laws, including ICE. We must not be about tearing small children away from their families. We must not be about deporting DREAMers, young people who have lived in this country virtually their entire lives.— Bernie Sanders (@SenSanders) July 3, 2018

We must not be about forcing over 10 million undocumented people, many of whom have been here for decades, to continue living in fear and anxiety. Congress must do what the American people want. Let us create a humane and rational immigration system.— Bernie Sanders (@SenSanders) July 3, 2018

Sanders's office did not immediately respond to an inquiry about whether the senator supports eliminating ICE before comprehensive immigration reform is enacted.

Sanders, who's considered a likely Democratic presidential candidate for 2020, has faced pressure and criticism from the left after he declined to call for ICE to be abolished.

"I think what we need is to create policies which deal with immigration in a rational way," Sanders said in a CNN interview on June 24. "And a rational way is not locking children up in detention centers or separating them from their mothers."

"What we need is Trump to sit down with members of Congress and work on a rational program which deals with a serious issue," he added.

The issue has become a new litmus test for Democrats, particularly those thought to be weighing a presidential run in 2020.

Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.) and Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) have in recent days come out in favor of abolishing ICE, while Sen. Kamala Harris (Calif.) said the agency should be "critically re-examined."

Other Democrats have said they support examining the methods used by ICE, while noting that an agency is needed to enforce immigration laws.

President Trump has seized on the issue, saying Democratic support for abolishing ICE will ultimately hurt the party in November's midterm elections.

## **Newsom Calls For 'fundamental Reforms' For ICE**

By Joe Garofoli

[San Francisco Chronicle](#), July 3, 2018

Count California gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom as being in the "reform" but not the "abolish" camp when it comes to what should be done with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

President Trump "has transformed ICE into a cruel deportation force, one that targets and detains children and law-abiding families with the same intensity as high-level

criminals," Newsom said Tuesday in a statement to The Chronicle. "The agency needs fundamental reforms, and most of all, we need a president who respects immigrants and their families."

That position puts Newsom in the same neighborhood as another California Democrat, Sen. Kamala Harris, who called last week for "starting from scratch" with an overhaul of the 15-year-old agency.

Not surprisingly, it put him in a different neighborhood from the one occupied by his opponent in the November election, Republican businessman John Cox.

Cox, who supports Trump's proposed wall along the Mexican border, said Tuesday, "ICE is on the front lines in the battle against human trafficking. Calls to abolish the agency are short-sighted and wrong."

Newsom staked out his position on the same day as Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. Sanders, who like Harris is pondering a presidential run in 2020, called for "restructuring" ICE.

Sanders wrote in a tweet that "now, it is time to do what Americans overwhelmingly want: abolish the cruel, dysfunctional immigration system we have today and pass comprehensive immigration reform."

Sanders said "that will mean restructuring the agencies that enforce our immigration laws, including ICE."

Like other possible Democratic presidential hopefuls, Sanders is steering clear of calling for "abolishing" ICE, a battle cry on the left that has led President Trump to accuse Democrats of advocating "open borders."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has called for "replacing" ICE. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York wants to "reimagine it and build something that actually works."

ICE is divided into two main functions, homeland security investigations and immigration-law enforcement. It's the immigration aspect that has made the agency a budding campaign issue for Democrats, as ICE was the main enforcer of Trump's "zero tolerance" policy along the southern border that resulted in the separation of more than 2,300 children from their migrant parents.

Newsom, Harris and other mainstream Democrats have been vague about how they would "reform," "restructure" or "reimagine" the agency.

One Democrat who does call for abolishing ICE, Rep. Mark Pocan of Wisconsin, introduced legislation that he said would dissolve the agency within six months and "create a commission to provide recommendations to Congress on how the U.S. government can implement a humane immigration enforcement system that upholds the dignity of all individuals. The commission would then transfer necessary functions that do not violate basic human rights to other agencies."

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## Some Democrats Want To Go To War Over Abolishing ICE. So Does President Trump.

[NBC News](#), July 3, 2018

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's base voters didn't like it when he beat a retreat on the policy of separating undocumented families at the border. And they were so dead set against "amnesty" provisions in a House immigration bill he backed that he later falsely claimed that he had never lobbied on it.

Overall, Trump has lost so far on his core immigration promises: to build a border wall, force Mexico to pay for it and vastly reduce both legal and illegal migration to the country.

But his allies say he's found a huge political winner, for the midterm elections and his 2020 re-election bid, in the call by some prominent Democrats to "abolish ICE" — the acronym for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

"There's long been division in the Republican Party on the issue of immigration, but the one thing everyone can agree on is the Democrats are crazy for wanting to abolish ICE," said a former Trump White House official who spoke to NBC on the condition of anonymity to discuss the president's strategy.

That helps explain why Trump is turning the fight over detention-policy into a full-blown war over ICE.

From the Trumpworld perspective, it's an easy branding exercise: Democrats are for getting rid of an agency that cracks down on undocumented immigrants; which makes them in favor of open borders; and, in turn, that means they are generally for lawlessness.

Better yet, for Trump, the faces of the policy are Democrats who are widely considered potential 2020 rivals to him, including Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and, to a slightly lesser extent because she hasn't directly called for an end to the agency, Kamala Harris, D-Calif. They're raising their voices just as he is ramping up a barnstorming tour in advance of the midterm elections that is a not-so-dry run for his re-election campaign.

And, best of all for Trump, they did the branding for him. "Abolish ICE" isn't his phrase; it's theirs.

"He has taken the abolish ICE thing, he's wrapping it around the necks of the Democrats and he views it as his blunt instrument to defeat the Democrats in 2018 and whoever they put up in 2020," the former White House official said. "No doubt about it."

It's not just Trump's campaign that is pushing the issue. The official White House Twitter account slammed Warren and Harris on Monday for their statements on immigration,

and the administration is pushing out stories about ICE's law enforcement work.

Today, DHS, @CBP, and @ICEgov will be sharing stories of the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day with the sole objective of protecting our nation. Make sure to follow to see stories that have not been widely reported.

That's coming from a president who has spent much of his time in office trying to undermine the credibility of the FBI, the Justice Department, the National Security Agency and other federal national security and criminal justice agencies.

While it's not yet clear how the public will react to the abolish ICE fight, there's little doubt that Trump is happier waging it than talking about the policy of separating families or his failure, so far, to build the border wall or stop illegal immigration. And it's equally evident that Democratic leaders thinking about the midterms, rather than the 2020 presidential primary, are wary of being portrayed as opponents of a law enforcement agency.

Now, it's the divisions between Democratic leaders and their political base that are on display, not the Republican schism over Trump's policies that led the House to reject two GOP-written immigration bills in recent weeks.

Most congressional Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., have kept their distance from the "abolish ICE" calls being made by their colleagues and party activists. And, for the most part, those who favor getting rid of the agency are careful to say they want to put something in its place.

But that's the kind of nuance Trump doesn't deal in. He falsely accused Harris of "supporting the animals of MS-13," a transnational gang involved in drug-trafficking, torture and murder, because she said "we've got to critically re-examine ICE and its role" and "probably think about starting from scratch."

Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton who has written several books about presidents, said Democrats are falling into a deep trap by focusing on ICE rather than Trump's immigration policies.

"It takes attention away from President Trump and his policy decisions toward a government body that most Americans are not familiar with," Zelizer said. "Moreover, by talking about eliminating an agency that is assumed to handle border control (which of course they are not) the Democrats allow the GOP to paint them as being totally open borders and wanting to eliminate any kind of front line. This of course is not true, and Democrats clearly want to replace ICE with something else but the second steps get lost in the world of Twitter-politics."

For example, NRA spokeswoman Dana Loesch skipped right over that part when discussing the issue on FOX News.

"The calls to abolish ICE and have nothing there in its place, it's irresponsible and it's reckless governance from a party who should know better," she said.

Dana Loesch: "The calls to abolish ICE and have nothing there in its place, it's irresponsible and it's reckless governance from a party who should know better." #MAGA #FoxNews pic.twitter.com/vG0JLmR1CB

At a time when Trump has been struggling with his policies, Democrats have offered him a chance to pivot to better political ground, Zelizer said.

"Right now Democrats have a huge issue on their hands, the implementation of President Trump's draconian hardline anti-immigration policies with the separation of children from their family, but talking about government reform has shifted attention away from this issue," he said.

And Trump is happy to keep a spotlight on that heading into the midterms and his own re-election.

"Many Democrats are deeply concerned about the fact that their 'leadership' wants to denounce and abandon the great men and women of ICE, thereby declaring war on Law & Order," he wrote on Twitter. "These people will be voting for Republicans in November and, in many cases, joining the Republican Party!"

## **'Abolish ICE' Narrative A Recipe For Disaster For Democrats**

By Tammy Bruce

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

In the midst of the remarkable success of President Trump on so many fronts, the Democratic Party leadership is grasping at a new slogan: The call to abolish the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

A 28-year-old new Democratic star Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who defeated longtime congressional incumbent Joe Crowley in the recent New York primary, has led the call to abolish ICE. She is now being parroted by a number of other Democrats.

The Democrats were not prepared for Ms. Ocasio-Cortez's victory, but then again, the Democrats aren't usually prepared for anything. As with Hillary Clinton, the liberal Masters of the Universe presumed Mr. Crowley would win his primary (again). They were wrong.

Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. She ran on abolishing ICE, and that makes sense considering the New York DSA's tweeted its policy positions: "Abolish ICE. Abolish prisons. Abolish cash bail. Abolish borders." All listed next to an emoji rose image, as though that would make their recipe for disaster seem somehow more pleasant.

Other Democrats are now calling for the abolition of ICE, including national figures such as New York

gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"Abolish ICE" banners and signs were the leading image at the recent immigration rallies and marches, including calls to abolish "profit." The new narrative is that ICE is a "gestapo" facilitating the family separation policy at the border.

Yet how serious is a policy when you have no idea what the facts of the matter really are? The problem with this new demand by the Democrats is that ICE has nothing to do with controlling the borders. It's the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) that manages access to the country. ICE is responsible for enforcing immigration laws within the country.

This is why Mr. Trump began tweeting at various Democratic politicians, asking them why they wanted to abolish the entity that was taking on the murderous MS-13 gang. ICE also engages in anti-smuggling efforts, money laundering investigations and arresting criminal illegal aliens.

With marches and rallies organized around the absurd "Abolish ICE" demand, many might think this is what all Democrats now believe. But that presumption would be wrong.

How disconnected from their own base is the Democratic Party? We have one clue, courtesy of a new Harris/Harvard poll conducted by pollster Mark Penn, the former Bill Clinton aide. He asked about the "Abolish ICE" proposal and whether the agency should be disbanded. Sixty-nine percent of registered voters said no, including 59 percent of Democrats and 73 percent of independents.

Amazing to see that six out of 10 Democrats disagree with the national effort by Democrats who appear to be leading the party.

Additionally, when asked about immigration laws, 51 percent of Democrats said they should be stricter and 49 percent of Democrats said border security is inadequate.

Much of the rhetoric about the Democrats is that they're disconnected from the average American. That appears to be true, but the more surprising revelation is that they're as out of touch with their own base.

America's problem, it seems, is not that we're divided, as the Harris-Harvard poll actually shows the opposite; the problem is that there are politicians who don't represent many people at all and attempting to instill fear and division among Americans in general.

There is another political reason for a narrative pushing sudden outrage where there was none before. The policy at the border involving separating families and detaining adults and children until there were resolutions to their cases, was policy during the Obama administration as well. June was a month with many victories for the Trump agenda and for the country as a whole. What are Democrats to do when there's too much good news? Distract.

Consider this timeline:

June 1 — A CNBC headline announces: “The US economy suddenly looks like it’s unstoppable.”

June 5 — The California primary did not deliver the beginning of the mythologized “Blue Wave,” with voters even putting a Republican in play for the gubernatorial race also on the midterm ballot. Turnout was average; there was no new Democratic enthusiasm.

June 10 — Mr. Trump arrives in Singapore for the historic meeting with North Korea which takes place June 12.

June 14 — The Justice Department’s inspector general’s report on the FBI handling of the Clinton email server and emails is released. Also on June 14? The first march of outrage against the family separation at the border.

June 30 — More marches and rallies are held, but with the “Abolish ICE” slogan as a main message.

The latest results of rhetoric from the left and its apparent commitment to provoking people to commit violence includes vandalism at a Nebraska Republican Party office with graffiti to abolish ICE; a Secret Service officer was assaulted outside the White House by a man participating in an immigration rally; and protests at an ICE building in Philadelphia turned violent.

In the end, this is not an organic movement of any sort, but a typical leftist organizing tactic with which to raise money, distract voters and “win” the news cycle. Americans, including Democrats, do not like what they see, and as the economy continues on its trajectory and the president continues to focus on policy, it will also not bring the Democrats success in the midterms.

• Tammy Bruce, president of Independent Women’s Voice, author and Fox News contributor, is a radio talk show host.

## **Abolish ICE, Transfer Critical Functions: Rep. Mark Pocan**

By Mark Pocan

[USA Today](#), July 3, 2018

Over the past year, President Donald Trump has turned Immigrations and Customs Enforcement into a mass deportation force to support his political agenda, so misusing the agency that it’s no longer effective. In response, I’m proposing legislation to abolish ICE and transfer its legitimate functions to other government agencies.

We know President Trump will tweet lies about Democrats and immigration. He will try to paint Democrats as the party of open borders that stands up for criminals and against law and order. These lies are part of his cynical strategy to rile up his base and build support for his wall.

Abolishing ICE does not mean open borders. ICE is the agency directed by the president to aggressively round up and detain individuals already living in our country, not the

agency tasked with patrolling the border. Under my legislation, we would still have agents stationed to secure the border.

Further, abolishing ICE does not mean that the United States will suddenly be overrun with crime or that we’re abandoning law and order. Under my plan, critical law enforcement functions of ICE — including fighting terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and drug trafficking — would be transferred to other agencies that already handle these issues effectively.

ICE was created after the Sept. 11 attacks largely to protect our country from national security threats and terrorism, but the president’s focus on deporting people with minor infractions like traffic tickets makes us less safe since we can no longer effectively address serious threats.

As elected officials, we’re tasked with solving our nation’s most pressing problems, which include our broken immigration system. America regularly updates the structure of federal agencies, and under President Trump’s administration, getting rid of ICE and implementing a humane system has never been more necessary. We cannot allow the president’s rhetoric, threats and outright lies stop us from doing what is right.

Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., co-chairs the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

## **‘Abolish ICE’ Campaign Plays Right Into Trump’s Hands**

By The Editorial Board, Usa Today

[USA Today](#), July 3, 2018

With President Donald Trump and the Republican Party so thoroughly abandoning the political mainstream, Democrats have an opportunity to position themselves as the ascendant party for years to come.

But that assumes they don’t commit their usual blunders, which they appear to be doing right now on immigration with an “Abolish ICE” campaign. That campaign, pushed by young activists and adopted by several party leaders, is a non-starter.

While Trump’s immigration policies are hugely unpopular, abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency is not a message the mainstream will buy. In fact, it plays right into Trump’s tweeting hands, allowing him to change the subject from the inhumane treatment of immigrants to Democrats’ perceived weakness on border security.

The campaign is a classic liberal overreach, following the argument that the Democratic Party should push further to the left to counter the rightward turn of Republicans. That ignores political reality. Liberals, while growing, are still a considerably smaller part of the electorate than conservatives.

In the 2016 election, for instance, 35% of voters identified themselves as conservative while only 26% said they were liberal. The largest group — 39% — called themselves moderates. Forming a liberal-moderate alliance is a necessity for Democrats.

To that end, they could advance sensible immigration policies that are more humane than Trump's, reflect the values of a great nation, and continue the works of former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

But such policies should also strive to keep the flow of illegal immigration at manageable levels. This requires border enforcement and an acknowledgment that the law must have meaning.

To be fair, the Democrats' problem with their ICE campaign is more one of messaging than substance. While the campaign has multiple strands and considerable ambiguities, it does not appear to support ending border enforcement altogether. Rather, it argues for returning to something more like what existed before 2003, when the old Immigration and Naturalization Service, or INS, was replaced by ICE.

The changes of that year split the INS' visa-issuing division from its enforcement arm. It also moved that enforcement arm (renamed ICE) from the somewhat deliberate culture of the Justice Department to the urgency of the Department of Homeland Security, created after the 9/11 attacks.

Critics compare ICE to the special operations units that some police forces created during the 1990s crime wave. Those units, which operated outside of the normal chains of command, have largely been disbanded.

But such a nuanced message will be lost with a call to abolish ICE. It would be better to advance a mend-don't-end approach. Proposals to fix the agency, put forth by 19 senior ICE officials, could serve as a starting point.

Ultimately, however, the push for inhumane immigration positions isn't coming from ICE. It is coming from the White House. If Democrats want a less cruel immigration campaign that will resonate with moderate voters, they should focus their energy on abolishing the Trump administration.

## **Trump: Democrats' Border Stance Will Hurt Them During Midterms**

By Gabriella Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump on Tuesday confirmed he's working on the Supreme Court pick and also took a swing at Democrats over immigration.

I interviewed 4 very impressive people yesterday. On Monday I will be announcing my decision for Justice of the United States Supreme Court! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

The president's opportunity to nominate yet another judge to the Supreme Court has riled Democrats, who he criticized in the tweetstorm.

Mr. Trump accused Democrats of being weak on the borders, as some join the abolish ICE movement. He praised U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as "tougher and smarter" than MS-13.

How can the Democrats, who are weak on the Border and weak on Crime, do well in November. The people of our Country want and demand Safety and Security, while the Democrats are more interested in ripping apart and demeaning (and not properly funding) our great Law Enforcement! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

When we have an "infestation" of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE! They are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements that bad immigration laws allow into our country. Dems do not appreciate the great job they do! Nov. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

As a party, Democrats are taking sides on the controversial call to end ICE. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand both have advocated for finding a more humane system of enforcement. Others, like Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Tammy Duckworth, argue that Mr. Trump's policies need to be the focus.

The president also criticized Democrats for their split over the issue, warning that it will drive voters to the Republicans.

Many Democrats are deeply concerned about the fact that their "leadership" wants to denounce and abandon the great men and women of ICE, thereby declaring war on Law & Order. These people will be voting for Republicans in November and, in many cases, joining the Republican Party! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

## **Trump Defends ICE Amid Calls For Overhaul From Some Dems**

By Louis Nelson

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

President Donald Trump defended U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Tuesday against growing calls for the agency to be abolished, suggesting that the Democrats speaking out against it will pay a political price in November's midterm elections.

"When we have an 'infestation' of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE!" the president wrote online Tuesday morning. "They are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements [sic] that bad immigration laws allow into our country. Dems do not appreciate the great job they do! Nov."

Calls to do away with ICE have grown in recent weeks along with a swelling outcry over the Trump administration's immigration policy that resulted in thousands of children being separated from parents who brought them illegally across the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump signed an executive order last month to end the practice, but it is unclear how quickly children and parents are being reunited.

"How can the Democrats, who are weak on the Border and weak on Crime, do well in November," the president wrote on Twitter. "The people of our Country want and demand Safety and Security, while the Democrats are more interested in ripping apart and demeaning (and not properly funding) our great Law Enforcement!"

Trump's Tuesday morning social media posts followed a pair of tweets posted Monday to the official White House account that lashed out at Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), two lawmakers who have been sharply critical of ICE. "Why are you supporting the animals of MS-13? You must not know what ICE really does," the White House wrote in its post directed at Harris.

"As a career prosecutor, I actually went after gangs and transnational criminal organizations," Harris replied online. "That's being a leader on public safety. What is not, is ripping babies from their mothers."

## **Trump Targets MS-13 'Infestation': ICE Will 'Get Them Out'**

By Michelle Moons  
[Breitbart](#), July 3, 2018

President Donald Trump slammed Democrats on Tuesday for not appreciating ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) work to get an "infestation" of MS-13 gang members out of America.

Het added what appeared to be a nod to the 2018 midterm elections by ending his Tuesday morning tweet with "Nov."

When we have an "infestation" of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE! They are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements that bad immigration laws allow into our country. Dems do not appreciate the great job they do! Nov.

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

Leftist activists and Democrats held open borders protests on Saturday calling for people to vote out Republicans in the 2018 midterm elections and abolish ICE.

"When we have an "infestation" of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE!" read a portion of Trump's Tuesday tweet.

Trump said ICE law enforcement "are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements that bad immigration laws allow into our country."

The President accused Democrats of not appreciating the "great job" that ICE does. He ended the tweet, "Nov."

Monday night Trump warned that many Democrats would be voting for Republicans in November over Democrat leaders' who want to "denounce and abandon the great men and women of ICE, thereby declaring war on Law & Order":

Many Democrats are deeply concerned about the fact that their "leadership" wants to denounce and abandon the great men and women of ICE, thereby declaring war on Law & Order. These people will be voting for Republicans in November and, in many cases, joining the Republican Party!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

Much of the language at the Saturday protests rang out with a spirit of inducing fear. Leftist comparisons between Republicans or the Trump administration and events of the Holocaust are not new but were abounding at Saturday's open borders protest in Washington, DC. The comparison raised images of the horrors of the Holocaust in attempts to vilify Republican and the Trump administration. Chants of "shame, shame" and "vote them out" were directed toward Republicans in midterm elections and the Trump administration.

## **Trump Slams Dems For Call To Abolish ICE**

By Max Greenwood  
[The Hill](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump on Tuesday accused Democrats of "demeaning" U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), suggesting that the criticism of the agency by some liberals could hurt the Democrats in the 2018 midterm elections.

"When we have an 'infestation' of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE! They are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements (sic) that bad immigration laws allow into our country. Dems do not appreciate the great job they do! Nov." he tweeted, the last word an apparent reference to the November elections.

When we have an "infestation" of MS-13 GANGS in certain parts of our country, who do we send to get them out? ICE! They are tougher and smarter than these rough criminal elements that bad immigration laws allow into our country. Dems do not appreciate the great job they do! Nov.— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

"How can the Democrats, who are weak on the Border and weak on Crime, do well in November," the president asked in a second tweet. "The people of our Country want and demand Safety and Security, while the Democrats are more interested in ripping apart and demeaning (and not properly funding) our great Law Enforcement!"

How can the Democrats, who are weak on the Border and weak on Crime, do well in November. The people of our Country want and demand Safety and Security, while the

Democrats are more interested in ripping apart and demeaning (and not properly funding) our great Law Enforcement!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

Trump's tweets came as some Democrats have started to call for ICE to be abolished amid an intensifying controversy over the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy prioritizing the prosecution of people who cross into the U.S. illegally through Mexico.

That policy has caused thousands of migrant children to be separated from their parents at the border. Protesters gathered in cities across the U.S. over the weekend to demand an end to the practice.

While Trump signed an executive order last month intended to allow children to be detained with their parents, it remains unclear how the government expects to enforce it. A 1997 consent decree bars law enforcement from holding minors for longer than 20 days — a limit that does not apply to adults.

Days after that order was signed, a federal judge in San Diego ordered the government to work quickly to reunite migrant families that had been separated under the policy. However, it is not clear how officials plan to meet the deadlines imposed by the court.

## The Left Want To Abolish ICE. What Does That Mean?

By Charles Fain Lehman

[Washington Free Beacon](#), July 3, 2018

Over the past several days, numerous prominent Democrats have sounded off on both sides of one issue: whether or not their party should support the abolition of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, or ICE.

"I believe you should get rid of [ICE], start over, reimagine it, and build something that actually works," Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D., N.Y.) told CNN's Chris Cuomo Friday.

"The president's deeply immoral actions have made it obvious we need to rebuild our immigration system from top to bottom starting by replacing ICE with something that reflects our morality and that works," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) said Sunday.

While some such as Sens. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.), Tammy Duckworth (D., Ill.), and Richard Blumenthal (D. Conn.) oppose the movement, a growing chorus on the left is clamoring to "abolish" or "defund" ICE. That group includes at least three senators, five members of the House of Representatives, and more than 20 candidates for Congress and state Governorships. There is also a bill circulating the House intended to accomplish the group's goal.

The movement has grown in response to President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, with opponents labeling ICE "an opaque and racist deportation

force." The general public does not seem to agree: a recent poll found 69 percent—including majorities of Democrats—opposed abolishing ICE.

Abolishing ICE, as a bellwether for Trump's policy and a proposal in itself, may feature prominently in Democrats' rhetoric in the 2018 and 2020 elections. But what does ICE abolition mean? And, critically, what would the left see the agency replaced with? The slogan, radical as it is, obscures deeper divisions within the Democratic Party and the left over what immigration in America should look like after Trump. What is ICE?

ICE is a division within the Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for immigration enforcement, smuggling investigations, and terrorism prevention. It's split into several subdivisions, including Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), which actually carries out arrests and deportations, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which tackles drug- and terrorism-related issues. ICE has about 20,000 employees, with 400 offices and \$6 billion in annual funding.

ICE is not the entity directly responsible for policing the border—that is Customs and Border Protection, although ICE does deport some of the people CBP apprehends. ICE is also not the entity responsible for the recent family separation controversy—that is CBP again, which apprehends immigrants at the border, and the Department of Justice, which prosecutes them.

This confusing jumble of three-letter agencies is a byproduct of recent history. Once, most immigration functions were under the auspices of an agency called the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), organized in 1933 and part of the Department of Justice for most of its history.

INS was responsible for administrative matters pertaining to immigration law, including deporting immigrants who violated it. After 9/11 and the subsequent creation of the Department of Homeland Security, INS was abolished and its enforcement functions rolled into a new organization under DHS, which would address the national security angle of immigration: ICE.

ICE is perhaps best known for its arrest and deportation of illegal immigrants in the interior, a practice that has shifted over its history. ERO-led apprehensions took off in 2007, hitting rates they would maintain through President Barack Obama's first term.

ICE apprehensions began to decline shortly thereafter, as Obama responded to pressure from pro-immigration advocates by cutting enforcement and focusing on criminal rather than non-criminal immigrants.

Under President Trump, apprehensions have risen again, albeit not to the levels seen under Obama. Still, this upturn after several years of decline, combined with Trump's tough immigration rhetoric, is likely what prompted the

aggressive response of opponents of serious immigration enforcement. Why Does the Left Want to Get Rid of ICE?

There are a number of reasons. One is the scale of apprehension and deportation its detractors claim it permits. Removal of illegal aliens as recorded by the federal government have risen steadily for decades, but that rate of change increased after DHS's founding, a phenomenon that some analyses have attributed to ICE.

Notably, immigration enforcement rose alongside a surge in illegal immigration to the United States. The Pew Research Center has estimated that the illegal immigrant population more than doubled, from 5.7 million to 12.2 million, between 1995 and 2007. The illegal population flattened thereafter, however, even as enforcement increased.

The number of deportations began falling in 2013, with deportations by ICE specifically—as opposed to inclusive of other agencies like CBP—beginning to drop a year earlier. Indeed, the total deportations by ICE in 2017 were at their lowest level ever, although it is likely that that decline will not persist in 2018.

Critics also argue that ICE is indiscriminate in who it deports, targeting illegal immigrants who have committed no other crime than illegal entry. Such operations can mean the splitting up of families and the deportation of otherwise law-abiding longtime residents people.

Historically, ICE ERO has targeted people under a set of priorities that includes convicted criminals, but also immigration law violators more generally. In its last two years, the Obama administration narrowed these priorities, replacing them with a focus on “convicted criminals and others who pose a danger to public safety.” President Trump has returned ICE to the more expanded set of priorities, prompting what critics have called an “end” of enforcement priorities per se.

“In this era, ICE has just taken off the gloves, going full throttle without regard to consequences,” Katrina Eiland, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrant Rights Project, told the Pacific Standard. “They don't have any logical enforcement priorities anymore—everyone is an enforcement priority.”

The ACLU declined a request to comment to the Free Beacon for this story.

Pew found that criminals accounted for 74 percent of apprehensions made as of February, a marked decline from much of the Obama administration. Notably, Pew estimated that the proportion of criminal aliens apprehended remains substantially higher than historical norms, at least through FY 2009.

Both of these concerns flow naturally into the broader argument of some—although by no means all—ICE abolitionists, which is that the very act of deportation is, in and of itself, unjust, and not something government should be in the business of doing. One of these critics is Sean McElwee,

a New York-based writer and progressive data analyst who is regarded—by himself and others—as a leader of the Abolish ICE movement.

“Next to death, being stripped from your home, family, and community is the worst fate that can be inflicted on a human, as many societies practicing banishment have recognized,” McElwee wrote in the Nation in March. “It's time to rein in the greatest threat we face: an unaccountable strike force executing a campaign of ethnic cleansing.” What Would ICE Be Replaced With?

The short answer is: it is unclear.

At least one legislative proposal, from Rep. Mark Pocan (D., Wis.), is expected later this week. In a Tuesday op-ed, Pocan wrote that his bill would “dissolve ICE within six months and create a commission to provide recommendations to Congress on how the US government can implement a humane immigration enforcement system that upholds the dignity of all individuals.” (Pocan's office did not provide the Washington Free Beacon with further details.) Other officials who have backed abolition, such as Gillibrand and Warren, have not yet proposed alternatives, although they have made clear that they want some form of enforcement.

With the emphasis placed on DHS's roll in the current debate, there has been some discussion of reestablishing INS, which advocates say would make immigration an issue of justice rather than national security. Leftist darling Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has made ICE abolition one of her platform points, outlined such a proposal.

“Like warrantless wiretapping, the extrajudicial and unaccountable nature of ICE is essentially built as a maiden in waiting for authoritarian abuse of power,” Ocasio-Cortez wrote on Twitter in May. “In fact, the folks who panic about the idea of #abolishICE seem to forget that we had a system before it: the INS.”

However, it is not obvious that INS was the immigrant-friendly regime that current ICE critics might think it was. As Bill Scher noted at RealClearPolitics, the organization itself was a routine target of criticism from the left. It also oversaw the takeoff of mass deportation, as shown above; ICE ERO did not really start contributing until 2007.

INS also targeted non-violent-criminal immigrants for deportation. Interior deportations under INS totaled more than 138,000 people in FY2000, a number which included but was not exhausted by 71,000 criminal aliens deported.

This means that Democrats who want to curb immigration enforcement may need to look further back than ICE's founding. They might end up revisiting the bipartisan Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, signed into law by Bill Clinton and often blamed for beginning mass immigration enforcement.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a Democrat-controlled group in Congress, has opposed ICE abolition in

favor of legislative changes. A Daily Beast report on the CHC's talking points on the issue note that the group wants to see "increasing transparency and accountability" for ICE, and emphasizes Trump's policy, rather than problems with the agency itself.

Advocates like McElwee see major reform, going beyond ICE abolition, as necessary to their goals.

"It's a big concern—the idea of this very grassroots immigrant-organizer-led movement turning into, 'abolish ICE and then re-form it, and we'll call it 'ICL,' or something,'" McElwee told ABC. "If you still have mass deportation, you have not abolished ICE."

Representatives of ICE and its agents' union, the National ICE Council, did not respond to requests to comment for this article.

## **'Abolish ICE' Is A Gift To Republicans**

By Karen Tumulty

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

"Abolish ICE" has become the new rallying cry of the left, which is trying to turn the fury Americans are feeling about the horrors at the Mexican border on the little-understood agency known as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The effort gained a burst of currency when one of its proponents, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, won a stunning victory over House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joseph Crowley in last week's New York Democratic primary.

Now you are hearing that idea, in one formulation or another, from more prominent figures in the party, including some who are being talked about as possible 2020 presidential contenders.

ICE "has become a deportation force," Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) told CNN. "Get rid of it. Start over. Reimagine it."

But replace it with what? Democrats don't have a clear answer for that, which is why they are heading into dangerous political territory.

Demonizing a government agency is an old, tired strategy — one that rarely if ever has worked.

Just ask the Republicans. They have more than a little experience in this regard.

Democrats "are drifting into a trap," Trump ally Newt Gingrich told me, acknowledging that he knows what it is like to fall into this one.

When the GOP took control of the House under then-Speaker Gingrich in 1995, its right wing vowed to eliminate no fewer than four federal departments: Education, Energy, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development. Republicans saw those departments as symbols of everything that had gone awry in a sprawling, increasingly intrusive federal government.

"We learned that every one of those agencies have interest groups that desperately want them to survive," Gingrich said. "We just weren't clever about it."

Still, the proposal remains alive in conservative circles and is put forward again like clockwork during GOP presidential primary season.

In 2011, Texas Gov. Rick Perry's White House hopes effectively came to an end when he announced during a debate: "It is three agencies of government when I get there that are gone. Commerce, Education and the . . . what's the third one there?" The department he forgot is the one he now heads as President Trump's energy secretary.

Oops. The reason ideas like this never get anywhere is that most Americans see these agencies as having vital missions to perform. GOP plans to get rid of the Education Department, for example, were seen as an attack on teachers and children.

Similarly, calls to eliminate ICE are likely to be perceived as undermining the security of the nation's borders — and the integrity of the government employees who carry out its mandate, many of whom risk their lives to do so.

That is why wiser Democratic leaders have tried to temper the anti-ICE rhetoric coming from their base.

It is true that ICE — like much of government — might benefit from some fresh thinking about how it is structured and how it operates.

The agency was created in 2003 as part of the major government reorganization that took place in the wake of 9/11.

Part of its role in the massive new Department of Homeland Security was to run enforcement of immigration law in the interior, combining some of the functions of the old Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Customs Service.

There are fair criticisms that ICE has become unwieldy and that its reputation sometimes interferes with its ability to do its job. Detention and deportation, which grew sharply under President Barack Obama, have also become more common since ICE's creation.

But ICE is not responsible for what we've seen at the border in the past few months, particularly the heinous practice of separating parents from their children.

To blame a faceless agency is to give a pass to Trump's "zero-tolerance" policies and to the hateful rhetoric that has helped create a political environment in which some Americans find this acceptable.

What's more, Democrats are making it all too easy for Trump and his allies to falsely portray a call to abolish ICE as another way of clamoring for open borders.

"How can the Democrats, who are weak on the Border and weak on Crime, do well in November," the president tweeted Tuesday. "The people of our Country want and demand Safety and Security, while the Democrats are more

interested in ripping apart and demeaning (and not properly funding) our great Law Enforcement!"

This is the fight that Trump wants to have, over security and law enforcement, rather than massive detention centers and frantic parents who cannot find their children. It is one he can win — and Democrats calling to eliminate ICE will have given him a potent weapon with which to do it.

## **Ben Jealous, Maryland Gubernatorial Candidate, Won't Support 'Abolish ICE' Movements**

By Gabriella Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

Ben Jealous, a gubernatorial candidate in Maryland, broke with other Democratic nominees Tuesday over the "Abolish ICE" movement.

"Look, we need an immigration system," he said during an interview on The Hill TV's "Rising," "It's like 'abolish prisons.' I understand the emotional aspect of it, but I don't understand how that would work."

Mr. Jealous explained that dismantling the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency wouldn't accomplish much when policy remains an issue. He will face Republican Gov. Larry Hogan in the fall.

The candidate echoed similar arguments made by Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, and argued that the focus needs to be on creating immigration policy that "makes sense."

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won her Democratic primary in New York for a House seat the same night that Mr. Jealous did for the primary in Maryland's gubernatorial race.

Both victories were seen as a win for progressives within in the Democratic Party, but Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Jealous differ on the issue of ICE. Abolishing the agency is part of Ms. Ocasio-Cortez's campaign platform. She will face Republican candidate Anthony Pappas in the general election.

## **Michael Capuano Denies Push To Abolish ICE**

[Boston Herald](#), July 4, 2018

U.S. Rep. Michael E. Capuano says reports that indicated he wants to dismantle the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency were false — the Somerville Democrat said he is not joining the push by other members of his party, including his primary opponent.

Capuano was cited as one of the pols looking to abolish ICE in a report in The Hill, a Washington, D.C., political news publication, and in a Herald column.

Capuano has tried to walk a line of highlighting his opposition to ICE's establishment in 2002 while not calling for its abolition now.

"My focus is on reuniting children with their parents and stopping Donald Trump's hateful policies ripping families apart," Capuano said in a statement. "I voted against the creation of ICE. However, changing who enforces bad policy now doesn't fix that bad policy and it won't bring families back together. The policies being enforced are more important than the agency enforcing them."

Erin O'Brien, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, said Capuano's position on ICE could be a way of appealing to more centrist Democrats.

Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley "is running to the left of him and he's already very left," O'Brien said. "If anything, I think it's a signal to moderate Democrats."

Yesterday, U.S. Sen. Edward J. Markey was the latest Bay State pol looking to break up ICE, slamming the agency at a press conference following a weekend trip to facilities it operates on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"We need to dismantle ICE and reconstruct it because it has turned into a massive deportation army," Markey said, adding that it should focus on human trafficking and other public safety threats.

"We just have to step back and reconstruct this agency so that not any longer, just saying the word ICE throws fear into the hearts of innocent immigrants in Lawrence, in Chelsea, in Boston," Markey said. "Something has gone terribly wrong with the mission of this agency."

Markey's fellow senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren, has also called for ICE to be replaced, as has U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Worcester).

Pressley, who is challenging Capuano for his congressional seat in this September's primary election, has called for defunding ICE and eliminating parts of its operations.

## **Woman Climbs Statue Of Liberty; Liberty Island Evacuated**

[WABC-TV New York](#), July 4, 2018

NEW YORK (WABC) —

U.S. Parks Police have evacuated Liberty Island of tourists after a woman climbed to the base of the Statue of Liberty.

Live images from an Eyewitness News camera showed the woman lying at the base of statue.

She appeared to be moving occasionally and waving a t-shirt at times. At other times she was seen lying on her stomach and kicking her feet up behind her.

It was not immediately clear if she was protesting anything in particular.

The view from another Eyewitness News camera located on another side of the statue showed police scaling the base with a ladder.

They appeared to be talking with the woman.

Meantime, visitors were being taken off the island via ferry.

"We've had two unusual events occur back-to-back," National Park Service spokesman Jerry Willis told Eyewitness News. "So for the safety and security of our visitors, we decided to evacuate for the day."

"It's our busiest week of the year, historically," Willis continued. "The island at this time of the day is mostly near capacity, at 4,000 to 4,500 people. All boats have been tasked with moving people off the island. We have an evacuation plan. Given the heat of the day, the visitors complied with no issues."

Reports of a person scaling the statue started coming in around 3 p.m. Wednesday, shortly after a protest group calling itself Rise and Resist dropped a banner that read "Abolish ICE" from the base of the statue.

That demonstration was organized to protest the Trump administration's immigration policy, the group said in a press release.

The group said the woman who climbed to the base of the statue was not involved in the "Abolish ICE" protest.

## **Woman Tries To Climb Statue Of Liberty In Apparent Protest Of ICE**

By Thomas Tracy

[New York Daily News](#), July 4, 2018

"ICE has proved to be a threat to our liberty and way of life, and should be abolished," said Leon Kirschner, Rise and Resist member. "They go after the most vulnerable among us, acting without due process to detain people. For-profit companies are making money off family separation. This has to stop now."

## **Statue Of Liberty Climber Identified As Immigrant Activist**

By Larry Celona, Tina Moore And Chris Perez

[New York Post](#), July 4, 2018

The woman who scaled the Statue of Liberty on Wednesday has been identified.

Cops say Therese Patricia Okoumou — a 44-year-old immigrant from the Democratic Republic of the Congo — was the person responsible for the Fourth of July protest.

She lives in the St. George neighborhood of Staten Island and is currently in federal custody, according to police sources.

Officers from the NYPD's Emergency Service Unit transported her to a federal detention center on Wednesday night following her three-hour standoff with authorities. Her case is being handled by prosecutors in the Southern District of New York.

Sources said that Okoumou told investigators that she climbed up to the feet of Lady Liberty to protest President Trump's zero-tolerance policy on immigration and the separation of families at the border.

According to court records, she's a Congolese immigrant who once filed a complaint with the New York City Commission on Human Rights — seeking a judicial review and reversal of a "determination" it made regarding alleged incidents of abuse that Okoumou suffered at the hands of a social services agency on Staten Island where she worked.

Specifically, Okoumou claimed that in 2005 she was treated "in a demeaning manner" by her bosses and told that she would be fired "for complaining of discrimination." It's unclear why her complaint was tossed out.

On Wednesday, Okoumou told investigators that she was part of a group protest organized by Rise and Resist NYC. The activists unfurled a banner on Liberty Island less than an hour before her climb, which read: "ABOLISH ICE."

Organizers initially tried distancing themselves from Okoumou's Statue of Liberty stunt — saying she had "no connection" to their cause — but later admitted that she was a member.

"The person who climbed the Statue of Liberty was one of forty participants in our planned banner action, but her decision to climb the statue was made independently of the group, without consulting any other member of the group," the group said in a statement.

"We understand and share her desire to see the immediate release of children from detention and reunion with their parents," they added. "We hope that her legal representation will arrange for her release under her own recognizance."

## **Protester Climbs Base Of Statue Of Liberty, Forcing Shutdown Of Landmark**

By Rick Rojas

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

The authorities cleared visitors from the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July after a woman protesting the Trump administration's immigration policies climbed onto its base and refused to come down. About three hours later, police officers followed the woman onto the statue and took her safely into custody.

The standoff created an unexpected spectacle in New York Harbor that culminated not long before the planned Independence Day fireworks were set to start nearby on the Hudson River. Television networks aired live coverage through the afternoon, showing a continuous video feed of the protester as she moved around the base of the statue.

The woman started climbing shortly after 3 p.m. on what officials described as one of the busiest days of the year for the national monument. National Park Service officials

said that more than 20,000 tourists typically visit the monument each July 4.

Throughout the afternoon, the woman, identified by federal officials as Therese Okoumou, waved what looked like a T-shirt and reclined in a crease of the statue's robe. The copper is only about one-tenth of an inch thick, and officials feared she could damage the statue.

Before long, police officers and park rangers gathered beneath Ms. Okoumou after she refused their orders to come down. Attached to ropes, rescuers from the New York Police Department's Emergency Service Unit climbed up and cornered her at about 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Okoumou is in federal custody and is expected to appear in Manhattan federal court on Thursday, a spokesman for the United State's attorney's office said.

Jerry Willis, a spokesman for the National Park Service, said that park officials, prompted by security concerns, started evacuating visitors from the island about 3:30 p.m. About 4,500 people were on the island at the time, and they had all left within about an hour, Mr. Willis said.

The episode came after the arrest of seven people in a separate demonstration at the statue on Wednesday. The earlier protest involved members of Rise and Resist, a group formed after the 2016 presidential election, who hung a banner calling for the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be abolished. Members of the group, angered by the Trump administration's immigration policies, called the agency a "threat to our liberty and way of life."

Organizers of the Rise and Resist protest said that Ms. Okoumou's actions were separate from the group's planned demonstration, which she had participated in.

Jay W. Walker, one of the group's organizers, said that Ms. Okoumou, who is known to other members as Patricia, had been involved with Rise and Resist for several months. He described her as active, regularly taking part in the group's events. But on Wednesday, he said, other members were not aware of her plans to climb the statue.

"She's a free citizen in the world — it's a choice she made," Mr. Walker said. "I think the choice she made is certainly bringing more attention to the overall protest."

He added, "We don't condemn her for the choice she made, and we're going to do anything we can to support her."

The Statue of Liberty, the colossal mint-green monument and one of the most visible attractions linked to New York City, has long been a potent protest symbol, with a history about as old as the statue itself as a stage for political demonstrations.

Suffragists protested at its unveiling in 1886, circling the island in a boat. In 1976, members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War barricaded themselves inside the monument to protest cuts in education benefits for veterans, and last year, a group hung a banner that said "refugees welcome."

"On a day like Independence Day, we felt that it was the perfect melding of these huge symbols of what this country stands for," Mr. Walker said of Rise and Resist.

But the Statue of Liberty is also a draw for visitors who have come from around the world, and Mr. Willis said that Ms. Okoumou's actions, which he described as a stunt, ruined the plans of the many others who tried to visit the island.

"It is their one and only chance to come here," he said. "Unfortunately, we had to clear the island."

## **Liberty Island Evacuated As 'Abolish ICE' Protester Attempts To Climb Statue Of Liberty**

By Victor Morton

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

Liberty Island was evacuated Wednesday and at least 10 people arrested as a group of self-styled "Resistance" members demonstrated at the iconic Statue of Liberty.

At least one of the protesters was a woman who tried to scale the statue on America's Independence Day to protest President Trump and demand that immigration enforcement end.

The woman made it as high as the Statue of Liberty's midsection, Sgt. Dave Somma, U.S. Park Police public information officer, told TV station WNBC in New York.

The whole island was evacuated as a precaution, he said.

The Park Police already had arrested several other people for unfurling a banner saying "Abolish I.C.E." at the statue.

## **Smashed Nebraska Republican Office Tagged With 'Abolish ICE' Graffiti**

By Michelle Moons

[Breitbart](#), July 3, 2018

The Nebraska Republican Party posted photos on Tuesday of the smashed window at their campaign office and red graffiti reading 'ABOLISH ICE' on the nearby sidewalk.

"While they vandalize, we organize," read part of the tweet from the Nebraska Republican Party's official account. "Find your #Nebraska candidates and volunteer" the post directed with a link to their website.

While they vandalize, we organize. @GOP #LeadRight

Find your #Nebraska candidates and volunteer >>

[#NESEN](https://t.co/0KY3Q6tsZr#NESEN) #NEGov #NE02 #NELEG pic.twitter.com/MVF8EPly2

— NEGOP (@NEGOP) July 3, 2018

The images showed a Nebraska Republican Party office front with a smashed window and ahead of that on the sidewalk were the red painted words, "ABOLISH ICE." ICE is U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement whose activities include immigration law enforcement.

Some Democrats and leftist activists have been calling for ICE to be abolished. Some of those Democrats who have shied away from calling for the complete abolishment of ICE have opted instead of calling for the agency to be restructured.

Saturday's open borders protests from Los Angeles to New York to Washington, DC were marked by fear-inducing language, calls to vote out Republicans in the 2018 midterm elections, and calls to abolish ICE.

Nebraska Republican Party Executive Director Kenny Zoeller responded to the vandalism in a statement issued Tuesday morning:

This destructive criminal activity is disappointing, but unsurprising, given the increasingly radical rhetoric of national Democrat leaders and candidates like Jane Raybould, Kara Eastman, and Jane Kleeb. Violence is the natural result of the Left's statements urging Democrats to literally 'push back' on Republicans and 'resist' at any cost. Voters face a stark choice between sanity and the rabid, hateful words that sparked this vandalism.

In the course of the 2016 presidential election, a North Carolina GOP office was firebombed. According to law enforcement officials that attacked occurred the night of October 15, 2016 when vandals threw a bottle of flammable liquid through a window of the Republican Party campaign office. The building was engulfed in flames. Graffiti spray-painted outside a nearby building read, "Nazi Republicans get out of town or else."

Saturday's open borders protests in Washington, DC were thick with images of the Holocaust and attempts to connect the horrors of that event with the Trump administration and Republicans in the United States today.

Tuesday morning President Donald Trump called out Rep. Maxine Waters and her remarks at the Los Angeles open borders protest last Saturday. He connected her with Democrat Leader Nancy Pelosi as faces of the Democrat Party that will make people run from the party, "[Waters] ranting and raving, even referring to herself as a wounded animal, will make people flee the Democrats!"

## **Protesters Erupt In Violence Yet Again As Sides Battle In Front Of Philadelphia ICE Building [VIDEO]**

By Henry Rodgers

[Daily Caller](#), July 3, 2018

Protesters were arrested in front of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building in Philadelphia Tuesday after violence erupted in the streets.

The large group of protesters, calling for the abolishment of ICE, has reportedly been outside since Monday, and have been taking part of the "Abolish ICE" movement, in regards to President Donald Trump's zero

tolerance immigration policy. Similar protests have occurred throughout the U.S. including in Washington, D.C., and various parts of California, but they fortunately have not turned out to be as violent.

In videos posted on social media, protesters with parts of their face covered can be seen clashing with police and what appears to be other protesters in the streets.

An organizer told CBS 3 Philly the group has continued to receive donations of cold water and food coming in, as protesters plan on staying outside the building until their needs are met. (RELATED: WATCH: ICE Protesters Demand To Enter Agency Headquarters, Fail)

It is unclear how many protesters were arrested Tuesday.

## **Police: 29 Arrests At Protest At Philadelphia ICE Building**

[Associated Press](#), July 3, 2018

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – Police say more than two dozen people were arrested at a protest at the Philadelphia headquarters of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Protesters who camped out overnight are calling for abolition of the agency, an end to family detentions and closure of a detention center in Berks County. They also want city authorities to stop sharing arrest and court information with the agency.

A police representative says about 75 protesters were blocking the entrance to the ICE headquarters building in the city, refusing to allow anyone to enter or exit.

Police say after several warnings, 29 arrests were made Tuesday. Those arrested were issued citations for failure to disperse and then released. Two people had minor scrapes and bruises, and one was taken to a hospital for treatment.

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## **Some Contractors Housing Migrant Children Are Familiar To Trump's Inner Circle**

By Ben Protess, Manny Fernandez And Kitty Bennett

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

Many of the nonprofits, corporations and religious groups watching over migrant children detained at the southwest border have been in this business for years — and they have a history of political connections, donating millions of dollars to Democrats and Republicans alike.

Now, as new federal policies greatly expand the number of migrants held in detention, it is also becoming clear that some of the players in this billion-dollar industry have particularly strong ties to the Trump administration.

The president's education secretary provided funding to one of the groups. His defense secretary sat on the board of another. Mr. Trump's own inauguration fund collected \$500,000 from two private prison companies housing detained migrant families. And some of the contractors employ prominent Republican lobbyists with ties to Mr. Trump and his administration, including someone who once lobbied for his family business.

There is no indication that political favors or influence motivated any of the contracts, and the service providers have no apparent ties to the agency awarding most of the contracts, the Department of Health and Human Services. Many of the groups had federal contracts to work with migrant children long before President Trump took office.

Yet the administration's new focus on ending the practice of "catch and release," under which an ever-larger number of those apprehended at the border are held in detention, has meant that the business of housing and caring for migrant children is booming. A review of regulatory filings, campaign donations and lobbying records reveals a number of important links between people in Mr. Trump's orbit and the groups poised to earn financial rewards from his immigration policies.

Migrant youths detained at the border are housed at more than 100 government-contracted shelters, detention centers and other facilities across the country.

The groups operating them have hauled in more than \$1 billion in contracts in recent years to house, transport and watch over migrant children in federal custody. Although some of the contractors have spoken out against the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy on border enforcement and the separation of more than 2,300 migrant children from their families, most have made few public remarks and have instead quietly defended themselves, saying they housed and cared for undocumented youths during the Obama administration without controversy, and remain dedicated to protecting vulnerable children.

Mr. Trump's recent executive order to scale back the policy and keep migrant families together as much as possible will not necessarily undercut this business. The existing shelters will still house children who cross the border alone, and the president's order called for migrant families to be detained together, which could spur another round of contracts to expand the number of family detention centers.

Two private prison companies are already operating a pair of family detention centers in Texas. Planned new emergency shelters at military bases are also likely to be operated by contractors, as were similar facilities that opened temporarily on bases as a result of a surge in border crossings during the Obama administration.

The two private prison companies that run family centers, the Geo Group and CoreCivic, are among the politically connected contractors. Each donated \$250,000 to

Mr. Trump's inaugural fund. And the Geo Group's political action committee, while bipartisan in its giving, allocates many of its biggest donations to Republicans. These include \$170,000 to a joint fund-raising committee set up between the Republican Party and the Trump campaign; \$50,000 to a "super PAC" supporting the president; and, more recently, donations to Republican Party organizations focusing on the House and Senate.

The Geo Group also hired a lobbyist, Brian Ballard, who lobbied for Mr. Trump's golf courses in Florida before he became president. A recent disclosure form shows that, on behalf of the Geo Group, Mr. Ballard's firm was registered to lobby about "immigration regulation."

In a statement, the Geo Group said that its family center has "cared exclusively for mothers together with their children since 2014 when it was established by the Obama administration."

The company said the political contributions "should not be construed as an endorsement of all policies or positions adopted by any individual candidate," adding that it does "not take a position on nor have we ever advocated for or against criminal justice or immigration policies."

Steve Owen, a spokesman for CoreCivic, said that the company's donation to Mr. Trump's inauguration was "consistent with our past practice of civic participation in and support for the inauguration process." He added that "under longstanding policy, CoreCivic does not draft, lobby for, promote or in any way take a position on proposals, policies or legislation that determine the basis or duration of an individual's incarceration or detention."

In contrast to deep-pocketed private prison companies, many of the groups winning government contracts to care for migrant children are nonprofits and religious groups. Some of those groups are operating shelters for children separated from their families, as well as running transitional foster care after the children leave the shelters.

Although these nonprofits are not doling out campaign donations, some nonetheless have ties to the Trump administration.

Bethany Christian Services, a social services group that provides foster care to migrant children, has long been backed by the family foundation of Betsy DeVos, Mr. Trump's education secretary. Over the years, the group has received more than \$419,000 in grants from the foundation, tax records show.

Bethany has said it was "deeply troubled and concerned" at the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" border enforcement policy, and said, "We believe that all children belong with their families." The group said it works with federal agencies to "reunify unaccompanied and separated children with their families as soon as possible."

More broadly, Bethany said that it has been working with unaccompanied migrant children for more than 20 years,

long before the Trump administration, and rejected any suggestion that its work might be influenced by the support it receives from the DeVos family.

"Decades of hard work has provided us with the know-how required to support children and families in crisis," the organization said in a statement. "While we are extremely grateful to our donors and supporters, the idea that any single individual or organization could cause us to change practices is simply false and diminishes the incredible work of all those firmly focused on the well-being of displaced children."

Ms. DeVos's personal spokesman, Greg McNeilly, said that the family was proud to invest in Bethany's work, and that the organization had a "great reputation."

Another member of the Trump cabinet, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, once sat on the board of General Dynamics, which over the last 18 years has received millions of dollars in contracts from the Department of Health and Human Services office that works with migrant children. The company does not operate or construct any migrant shelters, but instead offers training and technical assistance to the shelters and provides other administrative services to the government. The company, which has a number of government contracts unrelated to the migrant children program, said it has "no role in the separation of children and families."

Mr. Mattis, who resigned from the board upon entering the Trump administration in early 2017, is not the company's only connection to the president. A General Dynamics employee served on Mr. Trump's transition team, and the company's chief executive, Phebe Novakovic, attended a meeting at the White House last year with Mr. Trump and other corporate executives. On two occasions, Ms. Novakovic has praised Mr. Trump's trade actions.

General Dynamics, which has registered to lobby on the issue of "border security," also operates a PAC that has donated to members of both parties, including more than \$1.1 million to Republican candidates and causes during this election cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. The company, which says its PAC "supports Congressional candidates who support a strong national defense, regardless of their party affiliation," made one of those donations to the congressional campaign of Greg Pence, the brother of Vice President Mike Pence.

BCFS — a nonprofit group that operates a number of shelters housing migrant children, including a tent city outside of El Paso that has been the focus of protests — counts a former Republican congressman, Henry Bonilla, as a longtime board member and a lobbyist. In December 2016, Mr. Bonilla met with Mr. Trump, then the president-elect, to discuss joining his cabinet as agriculture secretary. BCFS has also long retained Ray Sullivan, a lobbyist and onetime chief of staff to Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who is now Mr. Trump's energy secretary.

In a statement, BCFS said its "children sheltering mission has spanned Democratic and Republican Administrations, and comes with proper government procurement and oversight built in." Mr. Bonilla and Mr. Sullivan, BCFS said, help the group "respond to community needs and help inform federal, state and local officials about the BCFS System's capabilities and work."

## Attorneys: Parents In Fragile State For Asylum Interviews

By Elliot Spagat, Emily Schmall

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

LOS FRESNOS, Texas (AP) — Gabriel Canas, a bus driver from El Salvador who fled his homeland after members of MS-13 stormed his bus, did an initial screening interview for asylum under the worst circumstances.

He hadn't spoken to his 9-year-old daughter since the Border Patrol separated them two weeks earlier. And in that time, he had been moved repeatedly from one detention facility to another.

"The day I had my interview, I wasn't well because they'd taken my daughter away. I was worried sick. I didn't know where she was. I hadn't spoken to her," Canas told a judge at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Texas, where parents of many of the more than 2,000 children who were separated under the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy await their fate.

His case illustrates an overlooked effect of the separations: Some immigrants complain that they stumbled through their first asylum interviews when they were deeply distraught over losing their children. The interviews can have life-changing consequences because they are critical to establishing why families cannot return home safely.

Not until a day after the interview did Canas learn through a lawyer what happened to his child. The asylum officer who conducted the interview issued a deportation order. On Monday, an immigration judge upheld it.

The judge cited new Justice Department guidelines that gang violence is not sufficient grounds for asylum. But Canas blames his poor interview and plans to seek another one.

Volunteer lawyers say parents are distressed about losing their children and having no firm date for when they will reunite, putting them at a big disadvantage when they meet with asylum officers from the Citizenship and Immigration Service.

The so-called credible-fear interviews at Port Isabel take place by phone within two to four weeks of a parent's arrest and last 45 to 90 minutes each, according to immigration attorney Jodi Goodwin. Getting an answer can take a week.

To clear the initial hurdle, asylum seekers must demonstrate a "significant possibility" that they can prove that

they have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group or political opinion if they are returned home.

They are judged partially on the consistency of their statements to border inspectors at the time of arrest. Attorneys say many asylum seekers, usually speaking through translators, fumble their interviews by holding back on details that may help their cases.

The risks of the interviews don't trouble immigration hard-liners. Many of them see the asylum process as a joke, saying it invites fraud by migrants who exaggerate claims and exploit loopholes to get into the U.S. When legal groups talk about flubbed interviews or asylum seekers who need to be coached through the process, hard-liners see evidence that migrants are rehearsing from a script.

Harlingen immigration attorney Norma Sepulveda is representing a dozen parents detained at Port Isabel, including Canas.

"The first thing he said to the asylum officer was: Do you know where my daughter is?" said Sepulveda, who found the girl in Arizona after she was transferred there from Chicago.

After President Donald Trump ordered an end to the separations on June 20, border authorities generally stopped splitting up families for prosecution. But many at Port Isabel were arrested before Trump reversed course and are still separated. A federal judge in San Diego ruled last week that families must be reunited in 30 days, or 14 days if the children are younger than 5 years old.

Many of the parents have already been interviewed. Goodwin, who spearheads a network of volunteer lawyers, estimates that her attorneys had counseled about 210 separated parents at Port Isabel by the end of June. Most of them — about 150 — had already been through initial interviews.

Among those parents, more than half had talked to their children by phone. But they typically knew only that the children were in a government shelter and maybe the state or city where it was.

More than 3 out of 4 asylum seekers passed the screening from October to January, according to the latest published statistics. That approval rate may fall after Attorney General Jeff Sessions' decision to declare that domestic and gang violence are generally not sufficient grounds for asylum.

In Canas' case, the immigration judge cited the June 11 order from Sessions.

"It's not that I think that your fear is illegitimate," Judge Morris Onyewuchi said. "But the cops I must follow have ruled that gang extortion, gang recruitment are not grounds for asylum."

Citizenship and Immigration Services said it asks every asylum seeker if they feel comfortable proceeding and, if not, the interview is rescheduled.

"All applicants are asked about their health, to include their mental health and have the opportunity to discuss that issue as well as any issue that might impact their case with the interviewing officer. Our supervisors are directed to reschedule cases pending concerns that the applicant might have," the agency said in a statement.

The advocacy group Kids in Need of Defense sent volunteer attorneys to Port Isabel this week with the goal of counseling parents before their initial screening.

"We are talking to people who are distraught because they don't know where their children are and they're facing a complex, potentially life-or-death interview," said Wendy Young, president of the group. "To have to face a complicated legal proceeding when you're so focused on the safety of your child, I can't imagine what that feels like."

Canas, who was separated from his daughter at the Texas border, hopes to be reunited with her and to join his legal-resident parents and U.S. citizen sister in the U.S. His chances are poor, Sepulveda said, but he will seek a fresh asylum review.

"The purpose of coming here was to save my life and my daughter's life," he said. "That's all."

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

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## **The White House Tries To Extend Its Cruel Crusade Against Migrant Families**

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

WHEN THE Obama administration argued, in 2015, that an influx of migrant families illegally entering the country was justification for detaining the families indefinitely, federal courts rejected that stance out of hand. Now the Trump administration is making a similar argument with a fresh twist: that a new court ruling ordering that separated children be promptly reunited with their parents amounts to a green light for federal officials to detain them — together.

That's a neat bit of lawyerly jujitsu. It attempts to turn a federal judge's reunification ruling last week, based partly on grounds of compassion, into a rationale for extending the current administration's cruel crusade against migrant families. As a legal matter, it's also unsupportable.

The current case, like the one in 2015, runs aground on the shoals of a two-decade-old legal settlement that governs

the government's treatment of underage migrants. Among the requirements of the 1997 accord, known as the Flores settlement, is that immigrant children be released from custody whenever possible "without unnecessary delay," and that when they are held, it be in state-licensed day-care facilities.

U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee, who rebuffed the Obama administration in 2015, ruled then that the Flores settlement's mandate that minors be released "without unnecessary delay" meant most children must be freed within 20 days, unless doing so would put them or others at risk. The Trump administration now insists that delays have been rendered "necessary" by another federal district court judge, Dana M. Sabraw, who ruled June 26 that children separated from their parents must be promptly reunited with them. If the government is required to reunify and keep families together, Justice Department lawyers contend, then the government will do just that — in detention pending the outcome of their immigration or asylum cases, which typically take months or years to resolve.

The government's argument is too clever by half. There is no requirement that migrant parents be detained while their cases are resolved; in fact, it wasn't usual for previous administrations to do so and was adopted by the Trump administration only in May with its assertion of a zero-tolerance policy. There are effective means of ensuring that immigrants who are released pending the adjudication of their cases show up for their court hearings — they include electronic ankle bracelets; telephonic contacts with voice-recognition technology; and mobile phone app check-ins.

Moreover, if immigrant parents make the agonizing decision to call the administration's bluff by opting to keep their children with them in detention, that will likely violate the Flores requirement that children be held in state-licensed day-care facilities. Mindful of that stricture, the administration has asked Ms. Gee to waive that requirement, which is critical to protect children's well-being.

The Flores settlement was impelled by abundant evidence that migrant children were suffering owing to long detentions in facilities ill-suited to minors. Unfazed by that history, and by the legal requirements stemming from it, the Trump administration proposes to revive long-discredited practices. Its position is antithetical to American values, offensive to the law and an affront to decency.

## **Feds Chide Congress For Holding Up Family Unifications At Border**

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department chided members of Congress on Tuesday for all the demands to visit the dorms where illegal immigrant children

are staying, saying the hundreds of hours it took to show facilities to lawmakers could have been better spent reuniting parents and children.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement, a part of HHS, said more than 70 lawmakers have been granted access to government-run dorms for unaccompanied alien children, absorbing nearly 500 hours of staff time.

"Many of these hours would otherwise have been spent by ORR field and grantee staff verifying parental relationships to prevent child trafficking, facilitating check-in calls between parents and children, facilitating and reviewing foster family home studies, coordinating the delivery of food and medical supplies, and many other duties vital to the health and welfare of the children," wrote Matthew D. Bassett, an assistant secretary at HHS.

He said the department has bent its own rules, which usually require two weeks' notice ahead of visits, to accommodate the flood of requests from lawmakers.

The demand for access is coming chiefly from Democrats who are using the dorms as a backdrop to complain about the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy.

They say they worry about the treatment of the children and the trauma some 2,000 of them may be experiencing after they were separated from their parents at the border.

Those parents are generally being prosecuted for illegal entry. Because the criminal justice system can't accommodate families, they were being separated.

President Trump last month issued an executive order halting separations, saying the families should be kept in the immigration detention system — effectively halting the criminal prosecutions.

That has cut down on separations moving forward, but with more than 2,000 children already separated, Democrats and many Republicans have demanded that the government work faster to reunite them. A federal judge has also stepped in and ordered firm deadlines for reunification.

The facilities where the children are being kept has become a symbol of the situation, with the press and members of Congress demanding access to the dorms and to the children.

HHS says it is following a long-standing policy of requiring advance notice for visits — a policy that was in place when the crisis of unaccompanied alien children began in 2014, under President Obama.

Democrats did not object as vociferously at that point to the policy.

Now, however, they condemn as inhumane the conditions in which the children are being kept — and the slow pace of reunification.

Repeated demands for more information have been stonewalled, and deadlines missed, the Democrats say.

The issue is now before the federal courts, with judges increasingly policing Mr. Trump's immigration policies.

One judge in California has set a nationwide deadline of the middle of next week for the government to reunite all children younger than 5 who had been separated from parents at the border.

The judge gave the government an additional 15 days to reunite older children.

The government has said it is attempting to comply — though it hasn't given any updates on its progress, and critics say they doubt the government has a concrete plan.

One major problem is the children are held by HHS, while the parents are either in Homeland Security or Justice Department custody — and it's not clear the government has the ability to tie those families back together in their systems.

As of early last week, the government had 944 unaccompanied alien children in HHS-run dorms in Texas, 379 in Arizona, 327 in New York, 179 in Florida, 65 in Illinois, 47 in California, 27 in Michigan, 24 in Pennsylvania and 20 in Virginia. Another seven states combined for 35 more.

Under the law and court rulings, the government can keep illegal immigrant children in immigration detention for only a short period of time — three days if they are without their parents or up to 20 days if they are with their parents.

If they are unaccompanied, they are sent to the HHS-run dorms. They are not jails or detention facilities, and indeed children are able to walk away if they choose and disappear into the shadows with other illegal immigrants.

While at the dorms, they are given three meals a day plus snacks, play games on new ballfields, attend classes, go on outings to amusement parks and bowling alleys, and enjoy their home country's soccer teams on lavish cable television packages, according to contract documents obtained by The Washington Times.

The children also receive medical care — in some cases the first of their lives. But critics contend that care sometimes includes behavior-altering drugs administered without approval of the parents.

Parents have also reported sicknesses and injuries to their children at the dorms.

In a court filing this week, Angelica Rebeca Gonzalez-Garcia, 31, said her 8-year-old daughter was assaulted by a boy at the dorm where she was taken.

The girl also had contracted conjunctivitis and was isolated from the other children, spending her eighth birthday separated from her mother.

Ms. Gonzalez-Garcia said she hasn't seen her daughter since they were separated May 11.

"I still cannot stop crying over this incident," she said in a court declaration, translated from Spanish. "Nothing can prepare a person for the pain of watching their child be forcibly removed from them. ... It is not clear that I can recover fully from this incident."

She is in the process of applying for asylum, was released from detention June 19, and immediately began searching for her daughter.

She arranged for an attorney and began the 36-page reunification packet the government requires, but she said she has to have everyone in her household provide fingerprints — part of the government's safety check — and that will take until the end of July.

Other parents describe having come to the official ports of entry to apply for asylum and still having their children separated.

The government has insisted that in most cases, it was only people jumping the border who were being charged with crimes and therefore separated.

## **The Government Is Refusing To Release New Stats On Kids From Separated Families**

By Catherine E. Shoichet

[CNN](#), July 3, 2018

(CNN)How many immigrant families have been reunited since a judge ordered the US government to halt most family separations at the border?

And how many kids from separated immigrant families are still in government custody?

We don't know, because officials aren't saying.

It's been a week since they released a tally of how many kids from separated families remain in government custody.

And officials have repeatedly declined to respond to questions about how many families have been reunited.

Deadlines are looming; the government has less than a month to reunite the families it separated. Here's the latest:

It's been

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since the government has released stats on separated kids in custody

On June 20, the Department of Health and Human Services said there were 2,053 children from separated families in its care. On June 26, the agency said there were 2,047 such children.

Why haven't officials released updated figures since then? According to HHS, it's because the number of immigrant children in the agency's care is always in flux — and because they are working with other agencies to cross-check the numbers they have.

Federal officials have released updated statements revealing the total number of immigrant children in their care — a figure that includes children who crossed the border alone and children who were separated from their families after crossing. But since June 26, they've refused to specify how many kids from separated families remain in custody.

Here's why that particular statistic matters: It's the only figure officials have provided that gives us any indication of whether reunions are happening.

This isn't a perfect equation; we don't know whether the children released from HHS custody were reunited with parents – only that they're no longer in one of the agency's shelters. The government has not answered questions about the circumstances of their release.

But without a response to questions about how many reunions have occurred – or at least an updated figure on the number of kids from separated families who remain in custody – the public has no way to track whether families are being reunited or how quickly it's occurring. All we have are anecdotal examples of a few scattered reunions at airports.

The latest information we have was provided to CNN by a US government source: a map showing that the 2,047 separated unaccompanied minors who were in custody of the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement as of June 25 were scattered across 16 states.

In response to CNN inquiries over the past week asking for updated statistics on the number of kids from separated families in custody, officials have released the following statement:

"As HHS continues to evaluate the impact of the District Court ruling, and given the constantly changing number of unaccompanied alien children in our care (every day minors are referred to our care and released from our care to parents, close relatives or suitable sponsors), we are providing the total number of unaccompanied alien children in the care of HHS-funded grantees. While we understand the interest in detailed breakdowns of this information, our mission has been and remains to provide every minor transferred to HHS, regardless of the circumstances, with quality and age-appropriate care and a speedy and safe release to a sponsor."

Officials have

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to reunite the families they separated

On June 26, US District Judge Dana Sabraw laid out a series of deadlines in his ruling.

By July 6, officials must make sure every separated parent has a way to contact their child. By July 10, children under 5 must be reunited with their parents. And by July 26, all children should be reunited with their parents.

Officials have said they'll comply with the judge's order, but they haven't specified what steps they'll take to do that. They are scheduled to appear in court on Friday for a status hearing.

Attorneys for the ACLU, which has sued the government over the family separations practice, say they are monitoring the situation and will go back to the court if officials fail to comply with the deadlines.

CNN's Sean O'Key, Sonia Moghe, Sarah Jorgensen, Sunlen Serfaty, Laura Jarrett and Tal Kopan contributed to this report.

## **DNA Testing Being Done On Separated Migrant Children And Parents, Official Says**

By Sonia Moghe And Nicole Chavez

[CNN](#), July 5, 2018

(CNN)DNA testing is being conducted as part of the process to reunite children who were separated from their parents at the border, a federal official with knowledge of the reunifications told CNN.

"The safety and security is paramount and that it is not uncommon for children to be trafficked or smuggled by those claiming to be parents. To our knowledge this is a cheek swab and is being done to expedite parental verification and ensuring reunification with verified parents due to child welfare concerns," the official said.

The source could not discuss how long the practice has been taking place, if the testing requires consent and if the DNA is stored in a database.

Jennifer K. Falcon, communications director for RAICES, a nonprofit in Texas that offers free and low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees, called the move deplorable because collecting such sensitive data would allow the government to conduct surveillance on the children "for the rest of their lives."

"This is a further demonstration of administration's incompetence and admission of guilt, this further drives home the point we've been saying. They never registered parents and children properly."

Falcon also said it's not possible the migrant children – some as young as two months old – are giving their consent to DNA testing.

The organization said they'd never heard of DNA testing being done to reunite families before and they don't support the move.

Attorneys representing migrant families told CNN some of their clients have been approached by individuals who identified themselves as health officials or were wearing military-style clothing.

"I was told [by my clients] that 'men in blue military uniforms' were performing and ordering the blood and saliva tests," said Sophia Gregg, an immigration lawyer at Legal Aid Justice.

Gregg said she's learned that those individuals work with the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Some are also conducting lengthy interviews with parents about their children, asking questions such as where their children were born and whether they have distinguishing marks, another attorney told CNN.

The Trump administration has been facing continued scrutiny and questions over what will happen to the undocumented families who were separated as a result of the administration's widely criticized "zero-tolerance" immigration policy. CNN has previously reported that it's not clear how many migrant families have been reunited since a judge ordered the US government to halt most family separations at the border.

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services said there were 2,047 children from separated families in its care but since then officials have refused to specify how many kids from separated families remain in custody.

CNN's Catherine Shoichet, Nick Valencia and Miguel Marquez contributed to this report.

## **ACLU Slaps Trump Administration Over Parent Deportation Form**

By Maria Sacchetti And Jon Gerberg

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

The American Civil Liberties Union is calling on the Trump administration to stop distributing a government form that offers to reunite detained migrant parents with their children once the parents are ready to be deported from the United States.

The form has sparked the latest flareup over the administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which drew international outrage for separating about 2,500 children from their parents over the span of a few weeks.

On June 26, a federal judge halted the separations in response to a lawsuit filed by the ACLU and ordered immigration officials to reunite the families within 30 days. Children under 5 must be reunited within two weeks, and parents are supposed to have an opportunity to speak to their children by Friday.

The judge also barred the government from deporting parents without their children unless the adults voluntarily agreed to go.

Federal officials said they created the form to comply with the judge's order and ensure that parents and children can be deported together. Parents may also opt to leave without their children, who may seek permission to remain in the United States on their own. Officials said parents can use the form — whose existence was first reported by NBC News — after they have had a chance to make their case for asylum or another form of relief.

"Parents who are ordered removed can elect to be removed with or without their children. Neither choice has any bearing on the alien's eligibility to apply for protections available to them under the law," ICE spokeswoman Jennifer D. Elzea said in a statement. "This form has absolutely nothing to do with those who have pending asylum claims."

But the Trump administration has not disclosed its full plans for complying with the order to reunite parents and children. A week after the ruling, officials could not say Tuesday how many families remain apart.

Lawyers say they are concerned that detained parents desperate to locate their children may sign the form and give up their right to try to remain in the United States in order to get their children back.

Gracie Willis, an Atlanta-based lawyer with the Southern Poverty Law Center, said at least four parents who do not have final deportation orders described being given the form by ICE officials in a Folkston, Ga., detention center over the past week. She said the migrants refused to sign it. "For those folks it's confusing. I think it could be coercive," she said. "It's certainly misleading."

Lee Gelernt, the ACLU's lead attorney in the lawsuit, said that "there's no reason the government should be asking about removal at the same time as reunification . . . The ruling makes clear that parents are entitled to get their children back" without being "contingent upon them waiving their right to contest removal."

More information is expected Friday at a hearing in the ACLU's lawsuit, which was initially filed on behalf of a Congolese mother separated from her 6-year-old daughter after arriving in the United States last fall.

In his ruling last week, U.S. District Judge Dana M. Sabraw said the separations turned "chaotic" in May after the Trump administration announced its new "zero tolerance" policy, which declared that the federal government would criminally prosecute all unauthorized border crossers and send their children, including babies, to shelters overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Trump administration said it wanted to stem the rising numbers of families who cross the border illegally and request asylum, knowing they will probably be released to await immigration proceedings because of a lack of detention bed space for families.

Some advocates said the ruling could mean migrants will be released with an ankle monitoring device or some other alternative to detention.

But the Trump administration has also moved to deport migrants quickly or detain families longer, possibly at military installations or in family detention camps.

## **Border Agents Use Fear To Coerce Immigrants, ACLU Claims**

By Nathan Solis

[Courthouse News](#), July 4, 2018

(CN) — Parents separated from their children at the U.S.-Mexico border were coerced by border officials into giving up their claims for asylum and other legal protections with the promise that they would see their children again

sooner, the American Civil Liberties Union alleged in a second amended complaint filed on Tuesday in federal court.

More than 2,000 kids have been separated from parents facing illegal immigration charges and sent to states across the country due to President Donald Trump's zero-tolerance immigration policy.

The ACLU filed the class action in February, challenging the government's separation of families seeking asylum and was brought forth on behalf of Mrs. L, a Congolese mother and her 7-year-old daughter who were separated thousands of miles for months after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego.

Now in their second amended complaint, the ACLU says U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents use fear tactics to coerce parents with the promise of being reunited with their children.

"The government is also using the trauma of separation to coerce parents into giving up their asylum and protection claims in order to be reunited with their children," according to the complaint filed federal court.

Reunifying families is still up in the air as well, the ACLU said.

In their complaint, the ACLU said the June 20, 2018 executive order claimed family separations would end and the Department of Homeland Security was directed to keep families together during any pending "criminal improper entry or immigration proceedings."

But they allege the executive order does not contain plans for reunifying the families who were separated before June 20 and does not say how the federal government will return separated children to their parents who have already been deported.

The DHS was ordered to separate families when it was necessary to protect the child's welfare, but the executive order did not set out how that standard would be applied, the ACLU said.

"In prior cases, the government has applied that standard in a manner that is inconsistent with the child's best interest, including in Ms. L's case," according to the lawsuit.

The civil rights organization is asking the court to stop the federal government from deporting asylum seekers until they are reunited with their children.

On June 26, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego ordered U.S. authorities to reunite families separated at the U.S. border within 30 days.

A July 3 status conference is set to determine if the court will need to implement and enforce the provisions of the June 26 order, including communication between federal agencies to track separated families.

## ICE Officials Are Pressuring Separated Parents To Sign Deportation Forms

By Angelina Chapin

[Huffington Post](#), July 3, 2018

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials are telling detained migrant parents that to be reunited with their children they must sign a voluntary deportation form, according to lawyers who spoke to HuffPost.

The paperwork, which HuffPost reviewed, gives migrants the option to be reunited with their children before leaving the U.S. or to be deported without them, and it is addressed to parents who have been given "final orders of removal" — meaning they have been rejected from seeking asylum.

Read the form here:

But attorneys say that their clients who are still going through the asylum process have been pressured to sign the form and that ICE agents are misleading parents into believing that voluntary deportation is the only way to be reunited with their kids.

"We're hearing that people were told [by immigration agents], 'You don't have the option to seek asylum and be reunited with your children,'" said Gracie Willis, an attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). "You either have to option to be deported with your child or without your child."

Although Trump signed an executive order to halt family separation on June 20, and a recent court ruling requires families to be reunited within 30 days, there are still more than 2,000 parents who have not seen their kids. Lawyers say it is highly manipulative for immigration officials to ask separated parents who are desperate to reunite with their children to sign a deportation form.

Jennifer D. Elzea, an ICE spokesperson, said the form is only being circulated to migrants with final orders of removal. "As is stated on the very top of the form, this form only applies to parents with a final order and who are part of a specific class action suit," she wrote in an email to HuffPost. "This form has absolutely nothing to do with those who have pending asylum claims."

But HuffPost spoke with lawyers who say immigration agents brought the form to their asylum-seeking clients.

On Friday, Willis said, an ICE official asked one of her clients in a Georgia detention center to sign the form (since then, she's confirmed that four more of her clients have been presented with the same paperwork). The father, who has been separated from his 7-year-old son for over a month, is awaiting his asylum hearing and has no plans to return to a country where he faces political persecution. While the form says that it must "be read to the alien parent in a language that he/she understands," she said the officer spoke to her Spanish-speaking client in English.

Willis said that, thankfully, the man showed the form to one of her colleagues at SPLC, but the attorney is worried that other parents are being persuaded by the promise of reunification.

"I can imagine that the sort of desperation you would feel to see your child would lead you to make decisions about your case that you might not otherwise make," she said.

Adriana Zambrano, a legal volunteer with Aldea, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit that provides pro bono legal services to immigrants, said her client told her he signed the form on Thursday at the West Texas Detention Center, out of a desperation to see his 3-year-old son. The father had not yet had his credible-fear interview, the first step in an asylum case, and though the immigration officer told him the form did not mean he would be deported, Zambrano said the language suggested otherwise.

"His biggest fear is that if he doesn't sign any of this, his child will just get lost in the system," she said. "They are capitalizing on the fear of these parents to have their children given out to someone else, and their purpose is to deport them."

Karen Hoffmann, a lawyer at Aldea, said her client was pressured by an ICE officer to sign the form Thursday, even though he also had not gone through a credible-fear interview. She says the government's strategy for reuniting families is to "force people to sign their own deportation papers," adding that her client is so distraught over being separated from his 15-year-old son that he can't eat.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit that resulted in an injunction to reunite all families, has requested that ICE officials stop using the form. Lee Gelernt, an ACLU attorney, says that the paperwork shouldn't even be given to parents with final orders of removal, since those orders can still be challenged in court.

"The court ruling does not make reunification contingent in any way on agreeing to removal," Gelernt said. "There is absolutely no justification for the government giving people a form that combines removal and reunification in any way."

**CORRECTION:** A previous version of this story incorrectly stated the day that Karen Hoffman said her client was pressured by an ICE officer to sign a deportation form.

## **Parents Facing Deportation Are Asked To Decide Whether Children Go Too**

**ICE started giving new form laying out options for parents in wake of court ruling ordering administration to reunite immigrant families**

By Alicia A. Caldwell And Stephanie Armour

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **New Trump Admin Order For Separated Parents: Leave U.S. With Kids Or Without Them**

[NBC News](#), July 3, 2018

WASHINGTON — After a court order to reunite more than 2,000 migrant children who were separated from their parents in May and June, the Trump administration has instructed immigration agents to give those parents two options: leave the country with your kids — or leave the country without them, according to a copy of a government form obtained by NBC News.

The new instructions to agents do not allow parents who were separated from their children under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy to reunite with their children while they await a decision on asylum, a protection sought by thousands of migrant families fleeing violence in Central America.

Advocates say that even migrants who have already passed their initial asylum screenings are being presented with the form. "We are seeing cases where people who have passed credible fear interviews and have pending asylum claims are being given this form," said Lee Gelernt, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who is leading a class action lawsuit for family reunification.

Under zero tolerance, immigration agents had been instructed to separate all children from parents caught crossing illegally. Trump reversed that decision with a June 20 executive order, but didn't provide a clear path toward reunification for more than 2,300 children who had already been separated.

Parents and children who entered the U.S. after June 20 are being kept together in detention.

Asylum law dictates that immigrants should be allowed to make an asylum claim before a judge even if they have been given an order of deportation. Immigration rights advocates say forcing parents to choose immediately between leaving the country with or without their children means they are effectively prevented from asking for asylum.

"A child should never be held hostage to force a parent to relinquish their legal right to seek asylum," said Wendy Young, president of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND).

In a June 26 decision, U.S. Judge Dana Sabraw of the Southern District of California ruled that the government must reunify the separated parents from their children, but made no stipulation that parents must be allowed to remain in the U.S. with their children while they wait for a judge to hear their asylum claim — a process that can take years.

The form U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are directed to read to detained parents instructs them to sign next to one of two lines: "I am requesting to reunite with my child(ren) for the purpose of repatriation to my country of citizenship," or "I am

affirmatively, knowingly, and voluntarily requesting to return to my country of citizenship without my minor child(ren) who I understand will remain in the United States to pursue available claims of relief.”

The agents are instructed to read the form in a language the immigrant understands, which usually means Spanish, but it can be hard to find Americans who know the indigenous languages spoken by many migrants.

A spokeswoman for ICE, Jennifer Elzea, said the form is designed to be given to immigrants who have received a final order of removal.

“An individual who has received a final order of removal has already been given the opportunity to make a claim of fear about returning to his or her country of citizenship,” Elzea said. But she did not say whether those claims had finished being adjudicated before parents are given this form.

“Alien parents who are ordered removed can elect to be removed with or without their children. Neither choice has any bearing on the alien’s eligibility to apply for protections available to them under the law,” Elzea said.

But in the vast majority of cases, immigrants must be inside the country they wish to remain in before they make an asylum claim.

Similar instructions were given to child welfare workers in U.S. Health and Human Services shelters before Trump ended family separations. The workers were instructed to reunite parents and children only if the parents agreed to drop their own asylum claims as well as the claim of their child and be deported.

Families who arrived in the U.S. after Trump ended parent-child separations are being detained in family detention centers while waiting for a decision on asylum or deportation. The Justice Department has petitioned in a separate court case that the government should be allowed to hold children with their parents indefinitely.

## **DHS Slams NBC Reporters Over ‘Factually Inaccurate’ Story: ‘She Doesn’t Know What She’s Reading’**

By Anna Giaritelli

[Washington Examiner](#), July 3, 2018

The Department of Homeland Security slammed two NBC reporters for publishing on Tuesday afternoon what it called a “factually inaccurate” story that stated illegal immigrant parents were given a choice of being deported with or without their children as the only way to be reunited after being separated for illegal entry.

Julia Ainsley and Jacob Soboroff reported the only way the Trump administration will allow family units to be reunited is if the parent agrees to be deported and have his or her asylum request rescinded. Then the parent can return home with or without the child.

A DHS spokesperson told the Washington Examiner that the policy being referenced has existed for “decades” and that Ainsley misinterpreted comments U.S. officials made in response to a recent court order and never asked DHS for comment.

“She doesn’t know what she’s reading,” the DHS spokesperson said over the phone when asked about the information in the story. A representative for NBC Universal could not be reached for comment.

The DHS official said parents and children are held in different dockets so if a parent finishes illegal entry court proceedings and is ordered deported, they are given the option to then ask that the child be taken out of his or her separate docket and also sent home.

The spokesperson added that parents are not being forced to voluntarily deport themselves in order to be reunited with their children.

The NBC report said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers had been tasked with asking parents to pick one of two options: “I am requesting to reunite with my child(ren) for the purpose of repatriation to my country of citizenship,” or “I am affirmatively, knowingly, and voluntarily requesting to return to my country of citizenship without my minor child(ren) who I understand will remain in the [U.S.] to pursue available claims of relief.”

Later Tuesday evening, ICE issued a statement that said the form NBC reported on was part of the Detained Parents Directive and “only applies to parents with a final order and who are part of a specific class action suit.”

“This form has absolutely nothing to do with those who have pending asylum claims,” Jennifer D. Elzea, acting ICE press secretary wrote. “Alien parents who are ordered removed can elect to be removed with or without their children. Neither choice has any bearing on the alien’s eligibility to apply for protections available to them under the law.”

The Trump administration chose in April to take a “zero-tolerance” approach to illegal entrants and moved to prosecute parents and had the Department of Health and Human Services take custody and find family in the U.S. with whom to place the children.

By the time Trump took executive action in mid-June not to separate families following a national outcry against the administration’s actions, 2,300 children had been taken into HHS custody while their parents waited for prosecution or sentencing.

HHS could not specify how many of the original 2,300 separated children have been placed with family members or sponsors in the U.S. or reunited with parents.

“As HHS continues to evaluate the impact of the District Court ruling, and given the constantly changing number of unaccompanied alien children in our care (every day minors are referred to our care and released from our care to

parents, close relatives or suitable sponsors), we are providing the total number of unaccompanied alien children in the care of HHS-funded grantees. While we understand the interest in detailed breakdowns of this information, our mission has been and remains to provide every minor transferred to HHS, regardless of the circumstances, with quality and age-appropriate care and a speedy and safe release to a sponsor. Currently, there are more than 11,800 minors in our care," HHS said in a statement issued Tuesday afternoon.

## **Attorney General Jeff Sessions Rescinds Guidance Safeguarding The Right Of Refugees, Asylum Seekers To Work In The U.S.**

[MSN](#), July 3, 2018

Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday rescinded a 2011 Justice Department guidance mandating that asylum seekers and refugees have a "right" to work in the U.S.

The Obama-era document was included on a list of 24 Justice Department guidances that Sessions scrapped because he said they were "unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law" or imposed without congressional approval.

"That's wrong, and it's not good government," Sessions said in a statement.

The 2011 guidance, which was issued by the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-related Unfair Employment Practices, ensured asylum seekers and refugees were "authorized to work indefinitely" and could obtain Social Security cards "without employment restrictions."

The guidance also barred employers from demanding Department of Homeland Security-issued immigration documents from refugees and asylum seekers as long as they could present Social Security cards or American driver's licenses.

Sessions' sweeping rollback comes as the Trump administration continues to enforce its hawkish immigration agenda, including its "zero tolerance" policy on illegal entries, which resulted in the forced separations of thousands of children from their undocumented parents at the southern border.

## **Sessions Rescinds DOJ Guidance On Refugees, Asylum Seekers' Right To Work**

By Jacqueline Thomsen

[The Hill](#), July 3, 2018

Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday rescinded 2011 Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance that dictated refugees and asylum seekers have the right to work in the U.S.

The document, issued by the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices, stated that the refugees and asylum seekers are "authorized to work indefinitely" and can receive Social Security cards "without employment restrictions."

A Justice Department spokesperson told The Hill that the document was rescinded after a 2014 document laid out similar guidelines, including those on refugees and asylum seekers being allowed to work indefinitely.

The guidance also stated that employers cannot require employees to show Department of Homeland Security-issued documents, if they have a Social Security card and a state-issued driver's license or ID card.

Employers were also blocked from refusing to hire refugees or asylum seekers for not having a Social Security number, according to the guidance.

The Justice Department announced Tuesday that it was rescinding 24 guidance documents that were deemed to be "unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law, or otherwise improper," according to a department release.

DOJ also rescinded a 2009 guidance that told employers to "avoid 'citizens only' hiring policies or requirements that applicants have a particular immigration status," unless doing so was required by law. The document also stated that employers should only check if individuals are eligible to work after the decision is made to hire them.

Sessions said in the release that Americans "deserve to have their voices heard and a government that is accountable to them."

"When issuing regulations, federal agencies must abide by constitutional principles and follow the rules set forth by Congress and the President," he said. "In previous administrations, however, agencies often tried to impose new rules on the American people without any public notice or comment period, simply by sending a letter or posting a guidance document on a website."

"That's wrong, and it's not good government," he added.

The move comes as the Trump administration cracks down on immigration, implementing a "zero tolerance" policy for immigrants crossing the border, including asylum seekers.

Sessions also announced last month that the Trump administration would stop granting asylum to foreign victims of gang violence and domestic abuse, arguing that the asylum system was being "abused to the detriment of the rule of law."

—Updated at 5:19 p.m.

## **Trump Administration Must Turn Over Information About 2020 Census Question**

By Brendan Pierson

[Reuters](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Trump Administration Showed 'Bad Faith' In Adding Citizenship To Census, Judge Says**

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

A federal judge expressed skepticism Tuesday over the Trump administration's move to add a citizenship question onto the main 2020 census, saying the states have made a good argument that the federal government acted in "bad faith."

U.S. District Judge Jesse M. Furman, an Obama appointee, said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross initially claimed that he added the question at the request of the Justice Department was undercut by his recent admission that he was thinking about it even before then.

He ordered the government to disclose a host of information on its decision-making, and signaled he's unlikely to toss the lawsuit, as the Trump administration had asked.

"Today marked a major win in our lawsuit to protect the Census," said New York Attorney General Barbara D. Underwood, who is leading the lawsuit — one of a number of challenges to the citizenship question.

Democratic-led states and immigration activists have been fighting vehemently to oust the question, saying they believe it's being used as a way to scare immigrants away from participating in the census.

That, they say, would skew the count and deny states some federal cash that's doled out on the basis of population.

The Justice Department said it asked for the citizenship question to be added last year in order to get a better sense for demographic breakdowns, saying it needs more exact data to be able to bring voting rights cases.

Mr. Ross for months had said the Justice Department request was the basis for his decision to add the question.

Recently, however, he admitted he'd been considering adding the question even before that.

That fed into critics' complaints that the move is political, rather than an effort to get accurate data.

## **New Connecticut Law Extends Deadline For Young Immigrants**

By Susan Haigh

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut has joined a handful of states in providing particularly vulnerable immigrant youth additional time to apply for a federal legal status that could eventually lead to their permanent residency in the U.S.

Under a new law that took effect on July 1, immigrants who are 18, 19 and 20 years old and who've been abused, neglected or abandoned, can now ask a state probate court judge to determine if they're eligible to apply for a federal status known as special immigrant juvenile status.

It's different from DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which does not provide a path to citizenship in the U.S.

New York, California, Washington and Maryland have passed laws similar to Connecticut's. Meanwhile, New Jersey's existing statutes have been interpreted to include the 18-to-20-year-olds, while courts in Massachusetts extended the state's jurisdiction.

Before this new change, Connecticut's law applied only to immigrants under age 18, even though the federal government allows people up to age 21 to apply. The gap between the Connecticut and federal government age limits was highlighted in a Connecticut State Supreme Court case involving a teen from Honduras who was unable to apply for the special federal status because of the state's age restriction.

The discrepancy has created problems for other youth and young adults who lack legal status in the U.S. and are seeking protection from deportation.

"We had many conversations with 18-year-olds and 19-year-olds, saying, 'We're so sorry. You've reached us too late,'" said Stacey Violante Cote, director of operations at the Center for Children's Advocacy, which has offices in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven. While it's unclear how many immigrants this new law could impact, she said the children's legal rights organization fields several calls a week from unaccompanied minors who've made it to Connecticut, often after fleeing serious abuse and neglect. For many of them, Cote said, English is not their primary language, and they haven't had access to services and support.

One of the center's recent clients was born in Guatemala, where he had an alcoholic father with a history of family violence. Emotionally abused at a very young age and eventually abandoned, Cote said the boy was forced to live under conditions that put him at risk of physical and sexual abuse, malnourishment, educational neglect, deplorable living conditions and child labor. He fled to the U.S., where he eventually faced deportation proceedings and was referred to the Center for Children's Advocacy.

While the organization was eventually able to help the boy obtain the required state court order when he was 16 years old, allowing him to then pursue the special immigrant juvenile status, Cote said his then-18-year-old sister was not able to seek the same protection because of her age.

Camila Bortoletto, campaign manager for Connecticut Students for a Dream, said the state's age limitation has been an unnecessary barrier for those who've faced "extreme and unimaginable" obstacles and difficulties. She said the youth

often don't have access to basic services, let alone an immigration attorney who knows the system.

"This means that many youth do not find out they qualify for SIJS until they are already over 18 and it is too late to apply under the current process in Connecticut," she told state lawmakers in February.

This marked the second year that advocates pushed for this legislation in the Connecticut General Assembly. This time, the bill passed with strong, bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and Senate.

"It shows that state legislatures have a role to play and can make immigration policy better, more fair, more inclusive," said David McGuire, executive director of the Connecticut American Civil Liberties Union.

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## **Trump Accuses Obama Of Giving Citizenship To 2,500 Iranians**

By Gabriella Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump accused his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, on Tuesday of awarding citizenship to Iranian officials during the Iran nuclear deal negotiations.

Just out that the Obama Administration granted citizenship, during the terrible Iran Deal negotiation, to 2,500 Iranians – including to government officials. How big (and bad) is that? — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 3, 2018

The president's allegation is based on the Iranian claims in a Fox News report. Hojjat al-Islam Mojtaba Zolnour, a member of Iran's parliament, told a local paper that Mr. Obama granted citizenship to 2,500 Iranians during the Iran nuclear deal negotiations.

"This sounds like totally made-up B.S.," said Marie Harf, a former State Department spokeswoman who now works for Fox News.

The current State Department said in a statement to Fox News: "We're not going to comment on every statement by an Iranian official."

Mr. Trump announced in May 2018 that the U.S. would be leaving the Iran deal.

## **Iran's President Is In Europe To Save The Nuclear Deal ... But He Risks Starting A 'Messy Dispute'**

[CNBC](#), July 3, 2018

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is in Europe to meet the leaders of Austria and Switzerland in a bid to save the

international nuclear deal that has been abandoned by the U.S.

However, trying to do so could cause a "very messy dispute" between the U.S. and Europe, according to one expert.

"The U.S. will increase non-nuclear pressure on Iran, the European banks and businesses will side with Washington while European politicians will try to create or carve cutouts to the international sanctions architecture, and all this makes for a very messy dispute for the U.S. and its allies," Behnam Ben Taleblu, a research fellow at Washington-based think tank, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told CNBC's "Squawk Box Asia" Tuesday.

President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the deal in May and is reinstating sanctions on Iran after he had criticized the accord and said the country did not abide by its conditions. European nations Germany, the U.K. and France, who brokered the Iranian nuclear deal with China and Russia in 2015, have said they are committed to the deal. However, European businesses and financial institutions could be punished via so-called secondary sanctions if they do business with Iranian individuals or entities once U.S. restrictions snap back in August and then in November.

Rouhani said he hopes European nations will come up with a package to save the nuclear deal soon. He met his Swiss counterpart, Alain Berset, on Monday with the Swiss president affirming his support for the agreement, known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Iranian leader will be speaking at an industry event in Bern on Tuesday and there are reports some Swiss-Iranian commercial deals could be announced. Rouhani will then travel to Austria to meet Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and his chancellor on Wednesday.

Iran's state news agency reported Tuesday the foreign ministers of Iran and the countries remaining in the nuclear accord are to meet in Vienna on Friday.

'A very messy dispute'

Nonetheless, Ben Taleblu told CNBC that the likelihood of the nuclear deal being salvaged (at least in its current form) was small.

"The JCPOA was never designed to exist without any of its major partners. Therefore the U.S. did not envisage a world where it would be out of the deal and the deal would continue," he said. "Over time, I think it might not be 'death by a thousand cuts' to the JCPOA, but the JCPOA will collapse."

He said Rouhani's visit to Europe was simply designed to step up pressure on the region for it to save the deal.

"He knows Europe will respond to fears over what Iran's nuclear program might look like if the JCPOA deal collapses ... But he's also looking for more concrete guarantees about creating a sanctions-proof channel, perhaps something around non-dollar denominated transactions for European

banks to be able to wire transactions to Iran as U.S. sanctions are slated to be phased in," he said.

Among Rouhani's delegation are private sector representatives and Tehran and both Bern and Vienna are expected to announce trade agreements. Ben Taleblu said the appetite among European firms to do business with Iran, and risk U.S. sanctions, was slight.

"European banks and businesses, and select Asian banks and businesses are publicly siding more with Washington than Tehran because they don't want to face U.S. secondary sanctions which would be in effect starting this summer and increased in the winter."

Against a backdrop of the JCPOA possibly collapsing, Tehran announced earlier this month that it was increasing its capacity to enrich uranium in case the deal collapsed. U.S. sanctions on Iran will sorely hurt its oil sector and financial institutions. The U.S. has said it will seek to isolate Iran as much as possible.

On Monday, State Department official Brian Hook made no bones about the U.S.' aims: "Our focus is on getting as many countries importing Iranian crude down to zero, as soon as possible," he told reporters.

"We are also working with oil market participants, including producers and consumers to ensure market stability. Banking sanctions will also snap back on November 4, and we will be aggressively enforcing these provisions to lock-up Iran's assets overseas, and deny the Iranian regime access to its hard currency."

## **30 Years Later, US Downing Of Iran Flight Haunts Relations**

By Jon Gambrell

[Associated Press](#), July 3, 2018

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Mourners tossed flowers from a helicopter and a ferry into the Persian Gulf off the coast of Iran on Tuesday to mark the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Navy shooting down an Iranian commercial airline, which killed 290 people.

The July 3, 1988 downing of Iran Air flight 655 by the U.S. Navy remains one of the moments the Iranian government points to in its decades-long distrust of America. They rank it alongside the 1953 CIA-backed coup that toppled its elected prime minister and secured Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's absolute power until he abdicated the throne before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Today, as Iran grapples with America pulling out of the nuclear deal with world powers, officials linked their current woes to the 1988 disaster, insisting again that the U.S. cannot be trusted.

"This heinous crime is recorded in the memory of the great and brave people of this land and will never be

forgotten," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said in a statement.

The attack on the flight followed what the U.S. Navy refers to as Operation Praying Mantis, a daylong naval battle in the Persian Gulf between American forces and Iran during the country's long 1980s war with Iraq. That battle came after the USS Samuel B. Robertson struck a mine that the Americans later accused Iran of laying in the shipping channels it was trying to keep open for Kuwaiti oil tankers.

After the battle, U.S. forces continued to patrol shipping channels while Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard often harassed or swarmed incoming ships with smaller vessels. That's a tactic used even today in the narrows of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of the world's oil traded by sea passes.

Just after dawn on July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes sent a helicopter to hover over Iranian speedboats the Navy described as harassing commercial ships. The Iranians allegedly fired on the helicopter and the Vincennes gave chase, the Navy said. Unacknowledged for years afterward by the Navy though, the Vincennes had crossed into Iranian territorial waters in pursuit. It began firing at the Iranian ships there.

As the fighting raged, Iran Air flight 655 took off from Bandar Abbas, Iran, heading for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The Airbus A300 began its ascent as normal, part of a twice-weekly route flown by the airline for over 20 years. The captain communicated with air traffic controllers in English. His last message was: "Thank you, good day."

The Vincennes meanwhile had mistaken the commercial aircraft for an Iranian F-14, despite having state-of-the-art combat equipment at the time. The U.S. says the Navy made 11 radio warning calls on different frequencies before the Vincennes fired two missiles at the airplane, bringing it down and killing all aboard. The aircraft's "black box" flight recorders were never recovered.

The deaths shocked Iran, even amid the carnage of the war with Iraq, which would kill 1 million people. Sixty-six of the dead were infants and children. Authorities lined up wooden caskets of some of the dead in front of parliament in Tehran. Iran ultimately would sue the U.S., reaching a \$131.8 million settlement.

The U.S. later would give USS Vincennes Capt. William C. Rogers the country's Legion of Merit award, further angering Iran.

"It is now 30 years since the cowardly Captain Will Rogers, on orders from the rascal in Washington, Ronald Reagan, fired two missiles," an editorial from the hard-line Kayhan International newspaper said Tuesday. "No amount of apologies — although Washington has offered none nor Tehran expects any — will ever wipe out the bitter memories of this dastardly deed."

The newspaper also described the attack as “nothing new,” noting the U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal by “the current crook in the White House, Donald Trump.”

Linking Trump to the 1988 calamity might not be necessary. The typical Iranian already has enmity for the U.S. president, who included Iran in his travel bans. They also worry about Iran’s economy in the wake of the collapse of the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Tehran limit uranium enrichment in exchange for sanctions being lifted. Airplane manufacturers, carmakers and oil companies all have pulled away from promised billion-dollar deals.

Iran’s government has contended with a series of recent protests across the nation. The Iranian rial has plunged to 90,000 to the dollar — double the government rate of 42,000. Meanwhile, demonstrators in the south clashed with security forces this week over a yearslong drought and water scarcity. Iranian authorities may hope to deflect internal criticism by portraying America as a past and present menace.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has used his Twitter account to increasingly mock the U.S. since its nuclear deal pullout. On Tuesday, he noted how America now had cancelled civilian jet sales granted by the deal and that the USS Vincennes’ captain got a “medal instead of punishment” for the incident.

“Clear target: civilians,” Zarif wrote.

Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

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## **Scoop: U.S. And Israel Formed Joint Team To Internally Pressure Iran Regime**

By Barak Ravid

[Axios](#), July 3, 2018

Israel and the United States formed a joint working group a few months ago that is focused on internal efforts to encourage protests within Iran and pressure the country’s government.

Why it matters: The Obama administration almost completely refused to discuss any potential efforts for stirring unrest or encouraging protest inside Iran with Israel due to its efforts to complete the Iran nuclear deal. The joint team is a major example of the Trump administration’s policy shift in the region.

Two Israeli officials told me the team was formed as a part of the U.S.-Israeli framework document on countering Iran.

The officials added the team has already met several times during the last few months.

What we’re hearing: The Israeli officials told me that both the domestic situation in Iran and the work of the joint team were discussed during a meeting between national security adviser John Bolton and his Israeli counterpart Meir Ben-Shabbat and his American counterpart John Bolton at the White House several weeks ago. Both Bolton and Ben-Shabbat think that raising internal pressure on the Iranian regime might have a positive influence on Iranian regional behavior.

“Nobody is seriously thinking about regime change, but this team is trying to see if we can use the internal weaknesses of the Iranian regime in order to create more pressure that will contribute to changing Iranian behavior.”

— An Israeli official

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office declined to comment. A spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House said: “We don’t confirm or provide details of internal deliberations.”

The big picture: In the last few weeks, both Israel and the U.S. started using social media to convey anti-regime messages to the Iranian people. And Netanyahu has recently posted four different videos on Youtube, Facebook and Twitter — translated to Farsi — in which he speaks to the Iranian people and encourages them to protest against the regime.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote a series of tweets supporting the protesters in Iran, criticizing mass arrests of protesters by the Iranian regime and highlighting the regime’s growing funding of the Revolutionary Guards Corps as controversy build over Iran’s domestic spending.

## **Iran’s Persistent Protests**

**More demonstrations as the regime scrambles to beat new sanctions.**

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Poll: 58 Percent Disapprove Of Trump’s Handling Of Immigration**

By Louis Nelson

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

More than half of American voters surveyed by Quinnipiac University for a recent poll said they disapprove of the way President Donald Trump has handled immigration.

Just 39 percent of those polled said they approve of Trump’s handling of immigration, while 58 percent said they disapprove. But 50 percent of respondents said they believe the motive behind the president’s immigration policies is “a sincere interest in controlling our borders.”

Similarly, 47 percent of those polled said they do not believe the president is racist, compared with 49 percent who

said he is. Forty-four percent of respondents said the motive for his immigration policies is “racist beliefs.”

Trump’s immigration policies have drawn significant scrutiny in recent weeks thanks to the administration’s move to refer all illegal border-crossers for prosecution, a step that resulted in thousands of children being separated from their parents. Trump administration officials initially described the practice as a deterrent against illegal immigration but later said that separating families had merely been a consequence of enforcing the law, not an intended outcome.

After days of pressure, Trump signed an executive order ending the practice of family separation, but it is unclear what effect the order has had and how quickly the separated families are being reunited. Sixty percent of respondents to the Quinnipiac poll said the separation of families was a violation of human rights, and 83 percent said the Trump administration has a responsibility to reunite the separated families.

Trump, who has insisted that any immigration legislation be included in a larger reform package that also includes money for a border wall and the end of certain legal immigration programs, has complained often that Democrats in Congress are unwilling to find a solution on immigration because they want to campaign on the issue.

Sixty percent of voters polled agreed with the president’s argument that Democrats are more interested in “exploiting the nation’s immigration issue for political gain,” compared to 34 percent of respondents who said Democrats are more interested in “resolving the nation’s immigration issue.”

The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted via landlines and cellphones in both Spanish and English, contacting 1,020 registered voters nationwide. The poll’s margin of error is plus or minus 3.7 points.

## **Voters Say Both Dems, President Trump Exploiting Immigration**

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

The public seems fed up with both President Trump and congressional Democrats when it comes to immigration, according to a new Quinnipiac University Poll Tuesday that shows both sides are seen to be exploiting the issue for political gain.

Six in 10 people say Democrats are exploiting the issue. And a stunning 58 percent of Hispanic voters, who are key to Democrats’ argument, agree that the party is exploiting immigrants.

As for Mr. Trump, 53 percent of voters said he was more interested in exploiting the issue than in finding an honest solution to resolve the decades-long deadlock over immigration policy.

Mr. Trump also suffered badly when voters were asked about separation of illegal immigrant parents from their children at the border, with “sad,” “terrible” and “bad” being the top free-association words that came to voters’ minds, Quinnipiac found.

“The words are G-rated, but a punch to the gut of President Donald Trump’s immigration policy,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the poll.

The survey shows Mr. Trump is not making much headway with his argument that immigrants — and particularly illegal immigrants — are tied to lawlessness and crime.

Just a quarter of voters said “undocumented immigrants,” as the poll referred to them, are more likely to commit crimes than Americans.

While immigrants as a whole are more law-abiding, according to research, there is scant evidence either way to suggest the crime rates of illegal immigrants — though security experts point out that many of them jumped the border, and thus are already guilty of one misdemeanor crime.

Quinnipiac also found that while nearly half of voters — 49 percent — say Mr. Trump is a racist, only 44 percent say his immigration policies stem from racist beliefs. Another 50 percent say his get-tough approach is part of a “sincere interest in controlling our borders.”

## **Poll – Majority Of White, Black, And Hispanic Americans: U.S. Needs Stricter Immigration Enforcement**

By John Binder

[Breitbart](#), July 4, 2018

The majority of white, black, and Hispanic Americans agree that the United States needs stricter enforcement of its immigration laws, a new poll finds.

In the latest Harvard/Harris Poll, 77 percent of white voters, 53 percent of black voters, and 51 percent of Hispanic voters said they believe the U.S. needs to crack down on immigration laws.

Overall, 70 percent of Americans said the U.S. needs stricter immigration enforcement, not looser enforcement as Democrats and the Republican establishment has pushed for.

In recent weeks, Democrats in the House and Senate, along with progressive liberals like Cynthia Nixon in New York and most recently insurgent Democrat candidate for Congress, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, have been demanding the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency — tasked with deporting illegal aliens — be abolished and all immigration enforcement be ended. House Democrats are now crafting legislation that would officially abolish ICE.

Abolishing ICE, as Breitbart News reported, would have allowed more than 1.6 million illegal aliens to have gone free throughout the U.S. in the last five years. Nearly 60 percent of Democrat voters say they do not want ICE abolished, while about 3-in-4 swing voters say the same.

"Nearly 60 percent of Democrats said they do not want ICE to be disbanded. Abolishing the deportation agency would have allowed more than 1.6 million illegal aliens to have gone free throughout the U.S. in the last five years." <https://t.co/SlqQRblw3>

— John Binder (@JxhnBinder) June 29, 2018

Last month, every Senate Democrat signed onto the "Keep Families Together Act" which would have ended all immigration and border enforcement across the U.S., as Breitbart News reported.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), at the time, called the Senate Democrats' plan "the Child Trafficking Encouragement Act," saying it would lead to children being "abducted & sold to drug cartels & slave-traders as a free ticket into U.S."

Likewise, thirteen Republican Senators also demanded that President Trump end all border and immigration enforcement until Congress passed legislation that would ban illegal alien adults arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border from being separated from the children they crossed into the country with.

Breitbart News compiled a list of those Republican Senators.

Americans overwhelmingly support ending illegal immigration and reducing legal immigration levels, at which more than 1.5 million immigrants are admitted to the U.S. every year. The majority of swing voters say they oppose importing more foreign workers to compete against Americans for jobs.

Meanwhile, nearly two out of three Americans say they support reducing legal immigration, and more Americans support zero immigration to the U.S. than current legal immigration levels. More than four in nine in black Americans in swing districts across the country say immigration has made life "worse" in America.

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## A Church Put Jesus, Mary And Joseph In 'ICE Detention' To Protest Trump's Immigration Policies

By Kristine Phillips

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

Sitting in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, on the lawn where Christ Church Cathedral erects its Nativity scene every year, is the holy family. But there's no manger, shepherds, wise men or angels; just a chain-link fence surrounding the couple and the newborn.

Inside the fence, Mary sits on a wooden block, cradling baby Jesus in her arms as Joseph stands next to her looking down.

Christ Church Cathedral, one of the oldest churches in Indianapolis, is protesting the detention of families under the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy of prosecuting as many people as possible for crossing into the United States illegally. Justice Department lawyers said in a filing last week that families could be detained for longer than the 20-day limit required by a previous court settlement.

The Rev. Stephen Carlsen, the church's dean and rector, said the news prompted the church to create a display showing a "detained" holy family. Joseph and Mary were not any different from migrant families fleeing violence from their home countries, he said. The couple fled to Egypt after Herod ordered the execution of baby boys in Bethlehem, according to the Bible.

"People forget what that scene means," Carlsen told The Washington Post. "That was a homeless couple who weren't welcome anywhere, who took refuge in the barn, and it was to that couple that the Christ child was born."

"What we take away from these stories is the same thing we take away from our teachings and religious ethics," Carlsen added. "The heart of God is always with those who are on the margins, who are vulnerable and have no voice."

The Episcopal church, in a blue city in a blue county in the middle of red-state Indiana, is known for being politically active and has been vocal in its criticism of the Trump administration's hard-line approach to immigration.

"This issue isn't a new one for us," Carlsen said. "We've been working pastorally and also raising our voices on behalf of families who have come to our country seeking safety and seeking a future for their children."

Last weekend, the church joined the Families Belong Together rally outside the Indiana Statehouse to protest the separation of families. Hundreds of similar protests took place across the country. In 2014, the church was among a handful of religious organizations that married gay couples after the state's ban on same-sex marriage was ruled unconstitutional.

Christ Church Cathedral announced the display in an early-morning tweet Tuesday using the hashtags #EveryFamilyIsHoly and #CadaFamiliaEsSagrada.

"On our lawn tonight we placed The Holy Family . . . in #ICE detention," the church tweeted.

The display is reminiscent of photos of migrants in large pens with chain-link walls at a detention center in Texas. Similar images circulated in the news media during the 2014 migrant crisis under the Obama administration.

Carlsen said he has spent some time standing on the sidewalk in front of the church to talk to people about the display. He said some people aren't able to see the parallel immediately.

"People have to connect the dots. That's what's so powerful about a religious icon," he said. "Some people connect the dots and disagree. Other people connect the dots and I can see their heart soften."

More than 2,500 children were sent to shelters and facilities across the country between May and June. In defending the family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border, Attorney General Jeff Sessions cited a Bible passage invoked by defenders of slavery. The passage, Romans 13, says that God has ordained the government for his purposes.

But Trump reversed course amid a public uproar that included condemnation from religious leaders, including Pope Francis. He signed an executive order that ended family separations and instructed the Department of Homeland Security to keep families together while in custody. The administration said about 500 children have since been reunited with their parents.

Carlsen said he does not know how long the display will be outside the church.

"How long is it needed?" he said. "I would love for it to be outdated and be taken down. That would be my greatest wish."

## **Guatemalan Asylum Seeker: People In USA 'Don't Have Hearts'**

By Joshua Caplan  
[Breitbart](#), July 3, 2018

A Guatemalan migrant living in Miami — reunited over the weekend with her young daughter after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border — has a message for asylum seekers: find refuge in another country because Americans "don't have hearts."

Buena Ventura Martin-Godinez reportedly entered through the U.S.-Mexico border with her son on May 1, and her husband, along with their 7-year-old daughter Janne Idali Godinez Martin, crossed into the country one week later. Martin-Godinez's husband was subsequently placed in custody at a detention center in Atlanta, Georgia, while Janne was sent to Michigan.

A 7-year-old girl was reunited with her mom after nearly two months in immigration detention. The mom's message to other mothers: If you're thinking of claiming asylum, find

another country: "The laws here are harsh. And people don't have hearts," she said <https://t.co/sTQeJtv5XP>  
[pic.twitter.com/NVa5kjK8DU](https://t.co/sTQeJtv5XP)

— CNN (@CNN) July 2, 2018

After two months of separation, Buena and Janne were reunited on Sunday at Miami-Dade airport.

"She is asking to never be separated from her mother again," a tearful Janne told her mother as the two embraced one another, a translator said.

In a statement published by CNN, Buena Ventura Martin-Godinez criticized the Trump administration's "harsh" immigration policies. "The laws here are harsh. And people don't have hearts," the asylum seeker claimed. "People dream of coming here, to save their lives, but I don't want them to experience what I've gone through."

The Justice Department instituted a "zero tolerance" policy in April aimed at clamping down on illegal border crossings. Over the past year, the number of illegal aliens smuggling children across the border to pose as families, triggering "catch and release," grew by more over 300 percent.

Agents have separated 1,995 children from adults while illegally crossing the Southern border between April 19 and May 31, according to the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Health and Human Services provide immigrant minors with food, shelter, and medical care.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on June 20 to halt the separation of immigrant families at the border. "We're going to have strong, very strong borders, but we're going to keep the families together," President Trump told reporters prior to signing the order in the Oval Office. "I didn't like the sight or the feeling of families being separated."

## **For Trump And 'Angel Families,' A Mutually Beneficial Bond**

By Kenneth P. Vogel And Katie Rogers  
[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

Donald J. Trump first reached out to them about three years ago, when he was regarded as a political sideshow and they were desperate for any attention to their plight.

Today, thanks to the platform now afforded by President Trump, the group he calls "angel families" — relatives of people killed by undocumented immigrants — have grown into a political force, helping him justify the most unpopular aspects of his administration's immigration crackdown, and championing other candidates and causes devoted to limiting illegal immigration.

It is a mutually beneficial, and deeply felt, relationship that resonates well beyond the families who have grown so close to Mr. Trump that he remembers their names and those of their deceased loved ones, and privately relays praise of their appearances on Fox News.

The rotating group of families who have appeared at times with the president — totaling more than three dozen — provide a powerful rejoinder to criticism of Mr. Trump's hard-line approach to immigration as heartless, in some ways embodying his gift for creating narratives that are more powerful than concrete policy proposals or countervailing facts. And the Trump administration is keeping the families close, paying to bring several of them to Washington last month for a private White House meeting, followed by a news conference nearby at which they defended the president against criticism of his recently reversed policy of separating children from their undocumented immigrant parents at the border.

"You never hear this side," Mr. Trump said. "These are the American citizens permanently separated from their loved ones — the word 'permanently' being the word that you have to think about — 'permanently.' They're not separated for a day or two days. These are permanently separated because they were killed by criminal illegal aliens."

In interviews afterward, the families spoke of an emotional connection to Mr. Trump, praising him for shining a light on their losses and delivering on his campaign promises to them, regardless of the lack of progress on his signature immigration initiative — the construction of a wall along the southern border with Mexico. They credited him for moving to end a program that stopped the deportation of some undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children, even though his efforts have been blocked by a federal judge.

And they touted his signing of an executive order five days into his presidency — with some family members by his side — that led to the creation of a new office within the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency called the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement, or Voice, for which the families had advocated.

The Voice office, which has an annual budget of nearly \$4 million and employs 24 community relations officers to assist victims of immigration-related crimes, arranged and paid for the families' travel last month to Washington. The families met with Voice personnel and had a private audience with Mr. Trump in the Oval Office, where they asked him to autograph poster-size photographs of their deceased loved ones, which they proudly displayed shortly afterward at the news conference.

Several family members at the news conference echoed the president's phrasing about their permanent separation from their loved ones. The sound bites aired repeatedly over the following days in the conservative media.

Their advocacy has not come without costs. The families have been accused of using their children's deaths to provide cover to Mr. Trump and his immigration crackdown, including in letters and postcards mailed to their homes after their appearance with the president last month.

"Sadly, you have now despoiled your loss, your own good name, and the name of your loved one to serve the political ambitions of an evil, soulless man," read an unsigned letter mailed last month to the homes of at least two of the mothers, copies of which were provided to The New York Times. A father who spoke at the White House received an unsigned post card afterward comparing him to "the loyal followers of Adolph Hitler in 1934," misspelling Hitler's given name.

Nonetheless, several of the parents said in interviews that they stand ready to champion Mr. Trump's re-election campaign, and they are not waiting for 2020 to use their newfound political clout. They are helping to raise money and build support for advocacy groups of their own, as well as for 2018 campaigns focused on limiting immigration, including Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff who declared his candidacy for Senate only months after Mr. Trump pardoned his conviction for defying a federal judge's order to stop targeting Latinos based solely on suspicion of their immigration status.

"The hell with political correctness — we need new blood. And you bet I'm going to be out there campaigning for people who are going to do something to make our country safer and secure our borders," Mary Ann Mendoza, one of the mothers who spoke at the news conference, said in an interview. Her son Brandon Mendoza, a Mesa, Ariz., police officer, was killed in 2014 in a head-on collision with a car driven by an intoxicated undocumented immigrant.

She and other similarly affected family members first shared their stories with Mr. Trump soon after he started his 2016 presidential campaign, and he brought them onstage with him to repeat their stories at key points throughout the race.

Ms. Mendoza was among three family members who spoke at the Republican National Convention in July 2016. The next month, she appeared with Mr. Trump and members of a couple of other victims' families during a televised panel on Sean Hannity's Fox News show. A week later, they were onstage again with Mr. Trump at a speech in Phoenix during which he laid out his immigration agenda.

"There is a personal vested interest on both of our sides for each other," Ms. Mendoza said of the relationship between Mr. Trump and the families.

Sabine Durden, who also appeared at the Republican National Convention and at last month's news conference with Mr. Trump to share the story of her son's 2012 death in a motorcycle crash involving an undocumented immigrant who was convicted of manslaughter, has said that she had been contemplating suicide before Mr. Trump inspired her to become active in his 2016 campaign. "I wasn't into politics, and then he mentioned illegal immigration, and that stopped me in my tracks," Ms. Durden said in an interview. "When I heard those words, I knew my time wasn't up."

After Mr. Trump welcomed Ms. Mendoza to the microphone at last month's news conference, she thanked him and Vice President Mike Pence for being "there for us."

"There are no words to describe what your support and your caring has meant to each and every one of us," Ms. Mendoza said.

She and other family members used the news conference to call attention to a nonprofit group they started last May called Advocates for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime, or Aviac, which she said has "close connections" to the Voice office. The group received an increase in donations after the news conference, Ms. Mendoza said, explaining that it is now planning a fund-raising campaign.

Other family members thanked another nonprofit group that advocates for families hurt by crimes perpetrated by undocumented immigrants, the Remembrance Project. Internal Revenue Service filings show that the group received at least \$142,500 through the end of 2016 — the most recent year for which such filings are publicly available — from a foundation called US Inc. It was founded by John Tanton, who has been described by the Anti-Defamation League as "the primary architect of the modern day anti-immigrant movement."

US Inc. celebrated the work of the Remembrance Project last week in a blog post, which praised Mr. Trump's remarks last month about the toll of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants as "words many of us have waited decades to hear from the chief executive."

During Mr. Trump's presidential campaign, he helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for the Remembrance Project, which was started in Houston by the conservative activist Maria Espinoza, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2016. She did not respond to requests for comment about her group's fund-raising or advocacy.

After Mr. Trump's election, the Remembrance Project opened a Washington office to support the work of the Voice office, and also formed a more politically oriented arm, the Remembrance Project Advocacy Incorporated, to spend money in elections and on lobbying.

Aviac is also forming a political arm, registered under a section of the tax code — 501(c)(4) — that allows it to spend money to try to influence elections, without disclosing its donors.

In the days after the news conference with Mr. Trump, Ms. Mendoza and several other family members personally endorsed Mr. Arpaio in the contested Republican primary for the Arizona Senate seat being vacated by Senator Jeff Flake, a Republican.

"Joe would be a huge ally to the Trump administration and making America great," said Ms. Mendoza, an Arizona resident who said Mr. Arpaio, a lightning rod in the immigration debate, reached out to her after her son's death.

Family members who have backed Mr. Trump also are supporting other candidates who have taken hard-line stances on immigration, including the California governor's campaign of Travis Allen, a Republican state lawmaker who has called on the Trump administration to sue California to overturn its so-called sanctuary city law restricting the ability of state and local authorities to enforce federal immigration laws.

If the families "can keep telling our stories," it could help Mr. Trump and allied candidates who favor cracking down on undocumented immigration, said Laura Wilkerson, whose son was killed in 2010 by an undocumented immigrant. She appeared with Mr. Trump at last month's news conference and subsequently endorsed Mr. Arpaio. "It does remind the public that this goes on on a daily basis, and no other media is paying attention to it."

## **Almost Half The Country Thinks Donald Trump Is A Racist**

By Paige Lavender

[Huffington Post](#), July 4, 2018

Nearly half of voters think President Donald Trump is a racist, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday.

Forty-nine percent of voters said Trump is racist, while 47 percent said he's not, according to the poll. These numbers are similar to those from a February Quinnipiac poll, where 49 percent of voters said Trump was racist and 46 percent said he was not.

Forty-four percent of voters said they think "racist beliefs" were a motive in Trump's immigration policy, while 50 percent said Trump has "a sincere interest in controlling our borders." Sixty percent said the policy of separating children from their parents at the border was a violation of human rights.

Since enacting the policy, Trump and his associates have repeatedly pushed false, racist narratives to garner support, often associating immigration with high crime rates despite no evidence to support claims that immigrants commit more crime than U.S. citizens.

While only 11 percent of Republican voters in the Quinnipiac poll said they think Trump is a racist, 22 percent said they believe Trump has emboldened racist people to express their beliefs publicly.

The number of hate crimes rose the year Trump was elected — the first increase in over a decade. That trend continued in 2017.

Trump has denied being a racist despite making a number of racist comments, including blaming "many sides" for violence at a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which white supremacists clashed with counterprotesters and one woman was killed. He's also waged a battle against athletes

who refuse to stand for the national anthem in protest of police brutality and racial inequality, going as far as labeling one a “son of a bitch.”

## Half The Country Thinks Donald Trump Is A Racist. HALF.

By Chris Cillizza

[CNN](#), July 4, 2018

(CNN)A new Quinnipiac University poll has a striking result: 49% of people said they believe President Donald Trump to be a racist while 47% believe he is not.

Pause and digest that: Half the country – HALF – thinks the elected President of the United States harbors racist views.

That’s a remarkable finding. Full stop.

What explains it? No one thing.

Here are the two most obvious options.

1. This question, like all questions tied to Trump, is effectively a measure of whether you love or hate the President. So, 86% of Republicans say Trump isn’t a racist and 86% of Democrats say he is. Independents, who view Trump slightly more negatively than positively overall, have similar view on whether he is a racist: 50% say he is, 44% say he is not.

The “racist” numbers are not a direct facsimile of Trump’s overall approval numbers, of course. More people feel unfavorably about Trump’s job performance (55%) than say he is a racist (49%). But it’s close.

2. Trump has repeatedly played with racist and xenophobic language and sentiments – from suggesting Mexico is sending rapists and criminals to the United States to arguing the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville was a “both sides” issue to suggesting African-American Rep. Maxine Waters is a “very low IQ individual.”

When you dabble in casual racism – whether purposely or accidentally (and it’s hard to know which one Trump is doing each time), some decent-sized chunk of people are going to believe that you are – wait for it – a racist.

Trump’s response to the consistent finding that half the country believes him to be a racist – Quinnipiac found 49% saying that of Trump back in February – is to not only insist that he isn’t a racist but, in typical Trumpian overstatement, that he is the least racist person in the world.

A few examples:

“No, no, I’m not a racist. I am the least racist person you have ever interviewed, that I can tell you.”

“Number one, I am the least anti-Semitic person that you’ve ever seen in your entire life. Number two, racism, the least racist person.”

“I am the least racist person that you have ever met.”

Actions, of course, speak louder than words. And Trump’s actions, at a minimum, raise questions about his views on race.

Trump may not care about these findings – which aren’t a one-off, but rather a consistent sign that half the country feels this way. Why might he not care? Because 86% of Republicans believe he is not a racist and even higher numbers approve of him. And Trump has run a base-focused presidency from beginning to end.

Of course, there are some issues that should transcend mere partisan calculation. It is an inarguably bad thing – no matter which party you identify with – for one half of the country to think the nation’s top elected leader is a racist.

Trump may not care. But he should. He very much should.

## Democrats Underperforming With Hispanic Voters

By Ronald Brownstein

[National Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Despite the president’s hard-line immigration policies, Republican candidates are running competitively in many Hispanic-heavy states and congressional districts.

Democrats counting on President Trump’s hard-line immigration policies to spark energized Hispanic turnout and a wave against GOP candidates in this year’s midterms will be surprised to see what’s transpiring. Even during the heat of the family-separation crisis, Democrats are underperforming in heavily Hispanic constituencies, from GOP-held border battlegrounds in Texas to diversifying districts in Southern California to the nation’s most populous Senate battleground in Florida.

If immigration affects the battle for Congress, it will be because of the anti-Trump backlash among suburban women as much as any increased mobilization in the Hispanic communities. The early returns are a sobering reminder for Democrats that, even as the Republican Party is becoming a more nativist institution, GOP candidates are still holding their own in diverse battlegrounds by distinguishing themselves from Trump.

Rep. Will Hurd of Texas once looked like one of the most vulnerable House Republicans, representing a border district where Hispanics make up 70 percent of the population—a seat Hillary Clinton carried by 4 points in 2016. Hurd has long been an independent GOP voice, emerging as a critic of Trump’s border-wall proposals and a supporter of a path to citizenship for Dreamers. But, as Democrats frequently bring up, he’s also a congressman whose partisan affiliation will help keep Republicans in charge of the House.

He’s in surprisingly good shape as he vies for a third term against Democrat Gina Ortiz Jones. Despite holding one of the 25 GOP seats that Clinton carried, he’s not on the list

of The Cook Political Report's most endangered 31 members. His Texas colleagues John Culberson and Pete Sessions, representing suburban Houston and Dallas districts where Republicans traditionally dominate, are in deeper trouble. It's a crystal-clear sign that the anti-Trump anger is concentrated within whiter, affluent suburban communities, not the Hispanic battlegrounds with the most at stake.

There are also plenty of other clues suggesting Hispanic voters won't be rushing to the polls this November. In a special election to fill the vacant seat of former Rep. Blake Farenthold of Texas last Saturday, there were few signs of a Democratic wave. The reliably Republican district is majority-Hispanic, yet GOP candidates on the ballot tallied the same 60 percent vote share that Trump did in 2016. There were no signs of increased Hispanic engagement—even with the border crisis raging not far away.

Those results mirror the results from the March Texas primaries, in which the Democrats' Senate nominee Beto O'Rourke, a progressive favorite, badly underperformed in many border towns with large Hispanic populations. O'Rourke carried 87 percent of the vote in millennial-friendly Travis County (Austin), but fell well short of a majority in most counties along the border.

Move to the West Coast, and the results look similar. One of the Democrats' must-win targets in California, the seat of retiring Rep. Ed Royce, is looking surprisingly competitive. Even though this is a plurality-Hispanic district that Clinton comfortably carried, a recent poll commissioned by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee found Republican Young Kim leading Democrat Gil Cisneros by 2 points (45-43 percent). It's another sign that Hispanics may not be turning out to vote at a level commensurate to their representation.

Florida is offering an even bigger shock to the Democrats' system, given its perennial battleground status. In the state's marquee race pitting Gov. Rick Scott against Sen. Bill Nelson, the governor's standing with Hispanic voters is keeping him competitive despite the difficult political environment for Republicans. Two recently released polls show Scott, a longtime Trump ally, tallying noticeably higher popularity scores than the president in Florida. One poll, conducted by CBS News, shows Nelson leading by only 1 point among Hispanics (37-36 percent) while an NBC/Marist survey showed Nelson with a 10-point lead (52-42 percent) among the demographic. Either outcome shows Scott significantly outperforming Trump, who lost the Hispanic vote in Florida by a whopping 27 points in 2016 (and still carried the state).

Digging deeper, a Florida International University survey of Puerto Ricans in Florida—typically a Democratic-leaning demographic—found that 55 percent held a positive view of Scott, with 57 percent holding a positive view of Nelson. Democrats had been optimistic that a wave of these

new voters in the wake of Hurricane Maria would give them an advantage for the midterms. But Scott's frequent travel to the island and his campaign's aggressive Spanish-language television advertising has kept them in play.

Down in South Florida, one of the few Republicans to represent a majority-Hispanic district is also showing his resilience. In a recent Democratic survey conducted in his district, Rep. Carlos Curbelo sported a solid 42-27 favorability score, with 48 percent of voters approving of Trump's job performance. Clinton won this district by 16 points, so if anything, these results suggest Trump has gained ground with the district's substantial Cuban-American community since becoming president.

Even in the New York City district where Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez engineered her stunning primary upset against Rep. Joseph Crowley, returns show that the biggest swing away from the congressman took place in the gentrifying precincts filled with young white voters. Ocasio-Cortez's compelling biography clearly captured the imagination of the district's Hispanic population, but it energized the progressive millennials even more.

If immigration is a winning issue for Democrats in the midterms, it's because they're winning over suburban white women, not because they're mobilizing Hispanic voters against Republicans. Indeed, even as Democrats underperform in these pivotal races, the historic gender gap is what's propelling them to a possible House majority.

These results also are an uncomfortable reminder to Republicans who championed the Republican National Committee's infamous 2013 autopsy report claiming the party needed to moderate its position on immigration to win back Hispanic voters. Trump won the 2016 presidential campaign despite embracing hard-line immigration policies and deploying racially inflammatory rhetoric. Meanwhile, these results show that a critical mass of Hispanic voters are willing to prioritize other issues—like the growing economy—in choosing congressional candidates.

## **Los Angeles Adds \$10M To Aid Separated Migrant Children**

By Morgan Chalfant

[The Hill](#), July 4, 2018

The city of Los Angeles has approved \$10 million in funding for legal aid for immigrant children separated from their families at the southern border.

The Los Angeles City Council and county Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to add \$10 million the LA Justice Fund, a public-private partnership established last year to help immigrants facing deportation proceedings.

The development comes as the Trump administration continues to whether heightened scrutiny for its zero-tolerance immigration policy, despite efforts by President

Trump to quell backlash over the separation of immigrant families.

In a statement, Mayor Eric Garcetti said the city is “answering cruelty with compassion.”

“No child should endure the trauma of being separated from their parents or the terror of not knowing if they will ever see their families again,” Garcetti said Tuesday.

“I am grateful for the City Council’s partnership and swift action, because we must do everything possible to reunify these families now. Los Angeles is answering cruelty with compassion — by giving hope and assistance to people in desperate need,” Garcetti

Trump attracted massive public attention last month as scores of children were taken from their families as they awaited criminal prosecution for illegal border crossings. Under intense public pressure, the president issued an executive order last week reversing the policy of separating immigrant families, instead allowing them to be detained together.

## **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

### **An ICE Raid Leaves An Iowa Town Divided Along Faith Lines**

By Trip Gabriel

[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

In the days after immigration agents raided a dusty concrete plant on the west side of town, seizing 32 men from Mexico and Central America, the Rev. Trey Hegar, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, got into an impassioned argument on his Facebook page.

“The Bible doesn’t promote helping criminals!!!!” a Trump supporter wrote.

Mr. Hegar answered with Leviticus: “When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

The Trump supporter came back with the passage in the Gospel of Mark about rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and added for good measure: “Immigration laws are good and Godly! We elected our leaders and God allowed it.”

President Trump’s immigration crackdown has been promoted with biblical righteousness by senior members of his administration, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions. And in heartland communities where the president is popular, the crackdown is often debated — by supporters and critics alike — through the lens of Christian morality.

In Mount Pleasant, a town of 8,500 in rural southeast Iowa that voted heavily for Mr. Trump, the president’s immigration policies created a sharp, unexpected fracture in

the days after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents descended, on May 9. Fault lines appeared among public officials, businesses and, especially, the town’s many churches.

“This whole immigration thing has been an abstraction,” said State Representative Dave Heaton, a Republican from Mount Pleasant. “It’s been on TV and in the newspapers. And all of a sudden it’s here in our town. Relationships and everything are all of a sudden up for grabs.”

It was a few weeks before parent-child separations at the border exploded into the news, exposing divisions among faith groups nationally. Mainline Protestant churches harshly condemned Mr. Trump for his policy of separating families. Evangelical leaders also deplored the separations, although they largely deflected blame away from Mr. Trump. The expressions of dismay helped to drive his eventual retreat from the policy, but they reflected the same interfaith divide that opened in Mount Pleasant over the workplace raid, another facet of the administration’s “zero tolerance” policy.

Mr. Hegar, a Texan who served four years in the Marines before attending a Presbyterian seminary, finally asked the Trump supporter he was debating on Facebook: “Which Scripture do we obey?”

He answered himself: “The one from Jesus to ‘Do unto others’ is what we choose.”

Mr. Hegar’s church on Walnut Street is across from the site of Mount Pleasant’s most popular event, a Labor Day festival of steam-powered tractors and other farm machinery. In the days and weeks after the raid, the church became a hectic crossroads for family members of the detained men and their supporters. Parishioners in a group called Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors raised \$80,000 to help detainees’ families pay rent, utilities and legal fees.

Other mainline Protestant churches, including the Lutherans, contributed to the fund, as did the Catholics at St. Alphonsus, where a Spanish Mass is held once a month. Notably absent from the donor roll, though, were Mount Pleasant’s evangelical churches.

Mr. Hegar said he heard relatives of a detained man say that the pastor of the evangelical church they have attended for years had not called to ask if he could help them. “My heart breaks for that,” Mr. Hegar said.

The town’s evangelical pastors, whom he knows, are compassionate individuals, he said, “but to see nothing, after something like this in their backyards — I’m shocked.”

He attributed their silence to the strong political alignment between American evangelicals and Mr. Trump, who counts heavily on their votes.

“The nationalistic politics and theology goes hand in hand now,” Mr. Hegar said. “It drives me crazy when we don’t practice what Jesus preaches because of the mix of religion and national politics.”

Pastors of three leading evangelical churches in Mount Pleasant declined repeated requests over several weeks seeking comment for this article.

One evangelical pastor who did agree to an interview in the days after the raid was Jim Erwin, the head of Wellspring Evangelical Free Church. He said no one from the mainline churches had suggested he raise money; if they had, he said, he might have chipped in.

But Mr. Erwin added that he believed the detentions were justified: "Because they're breaking the law, I recognize the authorities do need to come in and do that."

On a day in mid-May when the president referred to immigrants who join gangs as "animals," more than 100 people crowded into the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church, including about 25 wives and children of the detained men.

Walfred Urizar-Lopez, 15, said that he and his father, Elmer Urizar-Lopez, 41, fled Guatemala for their lives after a gang tried to recruit Walfred as a drug courier. His father had gone to the police, but their advice was to cooperate with the drug-runners; his father refused.

"The gang told my dad he has no idea what kind of problems he will have," Walfred said at the church, speaking through a translator.

The arrest of his father in the factory raid left Walfred, a high school sophomore, alone in Mount Pleasant. In jeans and a flannel shirt, he thrust his hands into his pockets and fought back tears.

"His situation right now, it's very bad," said Eneida Carillo, whose family, also from Guatemala, had taken Walfred in. She said a lawyer had told them that day that Walfred's father would probably be deported. Ms. Carillo began to cry.

"As soon as his dad gets back, they will probably kill him," she said.

When Mr. Hegar spoke at the church meeting, he paused after each line to let Dina Saunders, who teaches English as a second language at the middle school, translate into Spanish.

"I am tired," the pastor said.

"Estoy cansado."

"I am tired of people talking about my neighbors breaking the law, when our country is breaking our own laws. By dividing up families. Separating women from children. Treating people seeking a better life like criminals.

"My church —"

"Mi iglesia."

"— is your church."

"Es su iglesia."

Workplace raids like the one in Mount Pleasant were de-emphasized by the Obama administration, but they have been stepped up sharply under Mr. Trump. Experts say the raids are meant to deter immigrants from showing up for work

or entering the country to seek jobs. Raids at 7-Elevens across the country in January and at a Tennessee slaughterhouse in April made headlines; scores of workers were detained at Ohio meatpacking plants in late June.

No charges have been filed against the owners of the Midwest Precast Concrete plant in Mount Pleasant that was raided. An ICE spokesman declined to comment, citing a continuing investigation.

According to Robin Clark-Bennett of the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa, 23 of the 32 arrested men have been released on bond, three have been deported and five remain in jail facing criminal charges.

While emotions ran high at the meeting in the fellowship hall, not everyone in Mount Pleasant, nor even at First Presbyterian, sided with Mr. Hegar.

"I agree with our president: our borders, we can't open it to everybody," said Rusty King, the church's custodian, the following day.

"We've got enough poor people here in Iowa that need help," Mr. King said. "I work three jobs and still live paycheck to paycheck."

After an initial conversation with a reporter about immigration, he seemed to avoid follow-up calls and texts. But he had a granddaughter, Angel King, pass along a Facebook post written by a young man from Mount Pleasant that echoed Mr. King's own views.

"I can't hold my tongue any longer," Garrett Carlston wrote in the post on May 10, when supporters of the detainees were rallying at the Henry County Courthouse. "I feel bad for the families that are going to be torn apart by this but it's hard for me to sit here and act like it isn't the fault of the people who brought them across the border."

He wrote that the vigil-keepers lacked sympathy for American citizens. "What about the ones living in Mount Pleasant who couldn't find a job because they were employing illegal immigrants instead?"

The view that immigrants take jobs from citizens or depress wages was a common one, but it was disputed by local business owners. The unemployment rate in Henry County is 2.9 percent, and many factories display "Hiring" signs.

Gary Crawford, who owns Mt. Pleasant Tire ("We keep you rolling"), said he paid tire installers \$16 to \$24 an hour, with full benefits. "I know most of the people who run the factories," he said. "They just can't find help."

Mr. Crawford belongs to St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, and on the Sunday after the ICE raid, he heard Father Paul Connolly, with the detained men in mind, devote his homily to the Good Samaritan, the exemplar of caring for strangers. "All of us were immigrants at one time," the priest said.

A few days after the church meeting, Angel King, the custodian's 17-year-old granddaughter, who also helps with

the church cleaning, was Windexing the glass doors to the sanctuary.

She said classmates had started calling her “a mini-Donald Trump” for taking the side of the ICE agents in the raid. The law is the law, she said, and undocumented workers had broken it. “They should go back, and if they really want to come back bad enough, they should go through the process legally,” she said.

Nor did she have much sympathy for families separated by the raids. “Families are torn apart every day,” Angel said. She spoke from experience: When she was a young girl, her father went to prison on a drug charge, she said.

She will study criminal justice in the fall at Southeastern Community College, hoping to become a probation officer. One of her classmates at the college will be Juana Barrios, 19, whose father, Oscar Barrios, was detained at the concrete plant.

Ms. Barrios said her parents brought her to Iowa illegally from Mexico when she was 3. She is enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which the Trump administration has rescinded, and is studying to be a nurse.

“They say go back and come here legally,” she said. “It’s not easy. Most of us don’t have money. Most of us are denied.”

Ms. Barrios recalled how she had once made a speech at the Catholic Church, naming her father as her inspiration: “I told him, Dad, I’m going to be the best nurse. I’m going to graduate with the best grades. That’s the only way I can think of to repay everything they’ve done for me — to be successful, and make their dream in my future.”

Her father was released on bond in early June to await a deportation hearing in immigration court, which has a five-year backlog of such cases, according to Bram Elias, a law professor at the University of Iowa. “By doing this raid,” he said, “the federal government has turned two dozen folks who were undocumented and living in the shadows into people definitely safe from deportation for five years, and possibly able to work lawfully.”

## **‘My Whole Heart Is There’**

By Gabriella Angotti-Jones And Annie Correal  
[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

A migrant mother separated from her children at the border traveled across the country to join them in New York.

Yeni González left her home in rural Guatemala in mid-May. Days later, she crossed the United States border, by night, with her three young children. They were picked up by Border Patrol, she said, and taken to a detention center near Yuma, Ariz.

At 5 one morning, agents woke the children there and took them away.

Ms. González’s children — Deyuin, Jamelin and Lester — are among more than 2,000 young migrants who were separated from their adult relatives under the Trump Administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy.

Despite President Trump’s executive order ending separations and a judge’s order calling on federal authorities to put families back together in no more than 30 days, most families have not been reunited.

This week, Ms. González’s family became the rare exception.

“New York,” she said in Spanish when she spotted the skyline from a car. “My whole heart is there.”

While she was held in detention centers in Arizona, Deyuin, Jamelin and Lester were sent to a shelter in New York, along with more than 300 children. Children separated at the border were scattered across 17 states.

Ms. González cannot yet retrieve her children because of a long list of requirements from the federal government, but she saw them again on Tuesday, after more than five weeks apart.

The relatively swift reunion was the result of Ms. González’s family’s efforts — they contacted a New York immigration lawyer after learning where the children were — and the energetic work of a group of New York-area mothers who heard Ms. González’s story on the radio.

The group launched a crowdfunding campaign to cover her \$7,500 bond and organized a volunteer-powered caravan to drive her to New York. (She couldn’t fly because immigration authorities had confiscated her identification.)

We covered the first and last legs of Ms. González’s four-day journey from Arizona to New York, learning, along the way, about what she had been through.

While Ms. González was in detention, her children were placed at Cayuga Centers, the largest of 10 social services agencies in the New York City area where separated children have been assigned. They have been living with a foster family, along with other children.

They spoke to their mother just twice in their time apart. Jamelin, the little girl, told her mother she had to brush her own hair, and that she had chest pains. Suspecting it was pent-up emotion, her mother told her to get it all out — to cry. Jamelin said she was not allowed to cry. Her caretakers scolded her. “They told her if she cried, it would slow down her case,” her mother said.

Ms. González was held in two detention centers in Arizona. At the first, outside Tucson, she was kept in a chilled area she called the “hielera” — or “ice box” — for more than two weeks. She said she was held with dozens of other women, with no beds and only foil emergency blankets for warmth.

With the lights constantly on, the women lost track of the hour, Ms. González said, and would often be startled to

learn it was the middle of the day, not the dead of night. “We didn’t even have the right to know the time of day,” she said.

On June 28, Ms. González’s bond was posted in New York City by the woman who had started the crowdfunding campaign, Julie Schwietert Collazo, a writer and a mother of three. Hours later, Ms. González was released and emerged from the sprawling Eloy Detention Center with her lawyer from New York, José Xavier Orochena.

She kept her head down and had tears in her eyes as they spoke to a few journalists who had gathered.

The night she was released, Ms. González met with Janey Pearl Starks, an immigration activist based in Phoenix, who was the first of several hosts and drivers. That night, in Phoenix, Ms. Pearl Starks settled Ms. González into her hotel room.

After weeks in the same clothes, she went to J.C. Penney with her lawyer to buy a few new outfits for the road.

Ms. González had befriended other women at the detention center, she said, many of them mothers whose children were also taken away.

At all hours in the detention center, Ms. González said, you could hear women crying. For comfort, they gathered and sang religious songs. “Quietly,” she said, so as not to attract the guards’ attention.

The day Ms. González was released, the women braided her hair and, defying orders not to touch or embrace, they lined up to hug her goodbye.

“Talk, Yeni,” Ms. González recalls them telling her. “Tell everyone what has happened to us here.”

After setting off from Arizona, Ms. González was handed off between volunteers in several states. With just a backpack, she switched cars every day. Her favorite place on the route, she said, was Chicago, where she marveled at the tall buildings and the lake.

In Pennsylvania, Ms. González sat with Sarah Menkedick on a Pittsburgh porch before Ms. Menkedick’s husband, Jorge Santiago, set out to drive her toward New York. They talked about Ms. González’s work cleaning houses in Guatemala and about their children.

The people she met on the trip wanted to impart the message that there were people in the United States who cared about what had happened to her, Ms. González said. Their meetings often ended with tearful hugs — the human touch Ms. González said she missed while in detention.

With every day on the road, Ms. González opened up a bit more. She sobbed as she recalled being separated from her children.

On Monday, Ms. González arrived in New York City, on a sweltering summer night. At one of two rallies, in Long Island City, Queens, she was embraced by a woman carrying a sign that said, “Yeni, my new American sibling, we are here to welcome you.”

The woman said she was a mother of three from Queens. “I can’t even imagine,” said Mary Jobaida. “We American families are here for her. We are all here for Yeni — and for all those who are still waiting to be reunited with their families, we are finger-crossing for them.”

Finally, on Tuesday morning, Ms. González saw her children. Accompanied by her lawyer, Ms. Pearl Starks, and Representative Adriano Espaillat, a Democrat whose district includes parts of Harlem, she made her way into Cayuga Centers.

More than an hour later, she walked out, holding a blue-and-white lollipop. She had words of thanks for everyone who helped. “Thanks to them, I’m here, free, seeing my children. Thank you to all the people who helped to bring me here from Arizona. Thank you all.”

She added: “Thank you to the City of New York.”

Her daughter, Jamelin, had given her the lollipop, she said.

When Ms. González saw her children, she said, she had fallen to her knees.

Even as they had played that day, there lurked doubts about the long road ahead. Ms. González’s lawyer filed two sponsorship applications, so that either Ms. González or a relative in North Carolina could take custody of the children, but he was told that there was a backlog on fingerprinting, and it might be 60 days before they were released. Meanwhile, in Arizona, representatives attended hearings in immigration court on Ms. González’s behalf, so that she would not be deported for failing to appear.

## **At 9 He Lost His Mom To Gang Violence. At 12 He Lost His Dad To Trump’s Immigration Policies.**

By Karla Cornejo Villavicencio  
[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

A father pleaded for asylum for his 12-year-old son. Instead, the Trump administration deported him and put his son in a shelter. Now the family cannot get the boy out.

Ms. Cornejo Villavicencio is an Emerson Fellow and a graduate student at Yale University.

When Brayan was 9 years old, in 2016, his mother was brutally raped and murdered in Honduras. Her body was found in a septic tank. When Brayan saw her in the coffin, she was so disfigured that he couldn’t recognize her. She had been seven months pregnant. That’s when his nightmares began, his fear of the dark. His mother’s boyfriend had abused her and was arrested in the killing, but he claimed it was a gang killing and was set free. He threatened Brayan and his father, José, so José vowed to bring Brayan to safety in the United States. The opportunity to travel there safely arrived this year.

During Holy Week in late March, Brayan and his father joined a caravan of hundreds of Central American migrants fleeing through Mexico to the United States. When they arrived at the California border in May, Brayan's father — seeking to follow the letter of the law — heeded the advice of immigration advocates and presented himself and his son for asylum. Border Patrol officers refused to even glance at the notarized letters from lawyers making his case, José said. He was jailed for 20 days, asked to sign papers in English he did not understand and was deported to Honduras. Brayan was flown to a shelter for children in Maryland.

Brayan is now one of the more than 2,000 children — a conservative estimate — who have been separated from their families as part of the Trump administration's zero-tolerance crackdown on undocumented immigration. On June 26, a federal district judge in San Diego ordered that those families must be reunited within 30 or fewer days — even though a Justice Department lawyer acknowledged there was no formal procedure to reunite families.

Brayan's story, pieced together from interviews with him, his father and his grandmother — whose last names are being withheld because they are undocumented — shows just how hard the government is making the reunification process, and why every step of the zero-tolerance policy is needlessly traumatizing for thousands of children and their families.

Brayan's grandmother, Rosa, is a 48-year-old undocumented immigrant doing everything in her power to become his sponsor and bring him to her Florida home. But navigating the bureaucracy has been a nightmare.

A social worker at the Maryland shelter — the name of which is being withheld to protect Brayan — told Rosa that Brayan needed his own bedroom if she is to receive custody of him. So she gave up a one-bedroom apartment that she had rented for \$400 a month and moved 25 minutes away to a two-bedroom apartment that costs \$1,200 a month, she told me. She needed to present a lease, which is difficult for undocumented renters, and undergo a background check. She also needed proof of income, another roadblock for many undocumented workers. To afford the higher rent, she began working longer hours and on weekends. The social worker first told her she didn't make enough money, then said she wouldn't be around enough for Brayan if she worked such long hours.

Rosa also has an 8-year-old daughter with her former partner, which the social worker said could be used as grounds to deny her custody of Brayan. So she got a notarized letter from the girl's father saying he would take full financial responsibility for the girl. Then the social worker left the case for a month, only to be reassigned to it recently.

"I started to feel that I couldn't do it, that it was impossible," Rosa told me. "I cried every day. I couldn't sleep. I just stared at the clock and imagined my grandson rotting in

there." She has been asked to submit the name of an alternate caregiver who is an American citizen in case she is deported. "I'm not afraid to be deported," she told me. "They can send me back to Honduras however many times they want, and I'll come back just as many times for my grandchild."

Officials with the shelter said it has strict rules on reuniting children with relatives to make sure they are not released to human traffickers, which was a concern in 2014 with unaccompanied minors. But many if not most of the children who have been placed in shelters by the Trump administration did not arrive unaccompanied; they were forcibly separated from parents who have since been jailed or deported. And for those, like Brayan, who do have relatives in the United States, odds are those relatives are low-income, undocumented and do not have access to legal representation.

"Undocumented children with representation are five times more likely to be successful in their cases, but the financial hardship these cases pose are often out of reach for low-income and undocumented families," Jennifer K. Falcon, communications director for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services said. (The group, known as Raices, has agreed to give Brayan's grandmother legal assistance.)

In a recent phone call, Brayan described the living conditions at his shelter. He has a room of his own with a bed, dresser and radio. He said that many of the children shut themselves in their rooms to cry after their twice-a-week phone calls with their parents. Meals consist of cornflakes for breakfast and ham sandwiches for lunch and dinner. When I called Brayan, I could hear children crying in the background. Brayan sounded tired, perhaps because he is depressed or exhausted from crying. He said all the children were given a pill each day "so they wouldn't get sick." His grandmother said she was worried the pills were sedatives because he had been anxious about sleeping alone since his mother's death, but he seemed to be sleeping well at the shelter. Shelter officials denied giving the children drugs.

Brayan also said that he and the other children are required to sweep and mop floors and clean bathrooms. The shelter pays them "an allowance" of \$7 a week — money they use to buy snacks to supplement meals that leave them hungry. Brayan told me he has taken it upon himself to comfort the youngest newcomers, telling them their parents wouldn't like to see them cry. "The kids here are sad; they cry a lot," he told me. "I tell them we're getting out soon. I ask God that I get out of here and am reunited with my grandma soon."

The question is whether the government will allow that, and when. Brayan's father told me he wants his son to live with his grandmother — and even had a lawyer draw up a letter attesting as much before they left Honduras. But there

are no assurances the government will agree. Being a poor person of color is a strong mark against you in the foster care system.

Tina Lee, an anthropologist who has described the child welfare system as “parallel to policing and incarceration,” told me that even American citizens who are relatives of children in foster care have a hard time getting custody because of discrimination against poor people and people of color. That means, she said, that “it is surely equally or doubly hard for undocumented family members.”

Even more disturbing, the Department of Health and Human Services, which is in charge of the children, and the Department of Homeland Security have agreed to share data, including that of all the undocumented relatives who seek custody of the children. This almost certainly places those relatives in danger of deportation. Rosa says she will not be intimidated, but surely others will be. The Women’s Refugee Commission and National Immigrant Justice Center said it was clear “D.H.S. and H.H.S. see children as bait or suspects first, not children.”

José described how in Honduras he’d walk home from work and begin to smile to himself as he anticipated seeing Brayan at the door, waiting to hurl himself at his father for a hug. He replays this image over and over in his head. He had dreamed of a new life with his son. Now separated by borders, he hopes his son will have a shot at a promising life with his grandmother. But the thought that he might not see him again is painful.

“Brayan is sad. He’s in despair,” José said. “And I feel guilty. I threw my son away.” I tell him that he didn’t, that Brayan was taken from him. “I feel like crying, but what good is crying?” he replied. “So even though I am not religious, I pray. If only I could see him at the door now, it would make me so happy.”

## **Blaine County Follows Controversial Immigration Policy**

By Joshua Murdock

[Idaho Mountain Express](#), July 4, 2018

Amid a shifting legal and political backdrop, the Blaine County Sheriff’s Office has stood by a longstanding policy of cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain suspects beyond their scheduled releases upon the agency’s request.

Questioned by the Idaho Mountain Express about why he continues the policy, that was as much justification as Sheriff Steve Harkins would provide.

But in the time since the policy was implemented, ICE has changed, alongside the administration that operates it, and working with the increasingly assertive agency may open up Blaine County to legal liability—as it has to others elsewhere in the country.

The jail’s policy is to honor “detainers,” or “immigration holds,” from Immigration and Customs Enforcement—requests that a jail detain a suspected undocumented immigrant for 48 hours beyond the time he or she would otherwise be released so ICE can take custody of the person and initiate removal proceedings.

ICE detainers are voluntary requests sent to jails—jails are not required to honor them—but many jails nationwide, including the Blaine County jail, choose to. However, the detainers, which do not have a finding of probable cause from a judge to justify detention, have been ruled unconstitutional by U.S. District Courts around the nation.

Following a challenge in 2016, the court for the District of Northern Illinois ruled that the detainers were unconstitutional because they violate the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable seizure. In response, ICE updated its policies and required that a one-page “warrant for arrest of alien” form accompany all detainer requests sent to jails. But those too have been found unconstitutional.

These are warrants in name only; they’re not written by a judge or backed by a finding of probable cause. That exposed ICE to another challenge last July, when the U.S. District Court for the District of Eastern Washington issued a temporary restraining order on the practice. There, federal Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr. deemed the warrants unconstitutional: Without a finding of probable cause, the detainers could not justify holding a person beyond the time he or she would have been released, Mendoza said.

In Blaine County, immigration enforcement occurs primarily through communication and cooperation between the county jail and ICE, according to immigration attorneys, immigration law experts, criminal attorneys and the sheriff.

When a person suspected of a local crime is booked into the jail, detention deputies inquire about his or her identity, specifically whether he or she is an American citizen or a citizen of another country, Harkins told the Idaho Mountain Express. If a person is suspected of—or admits to—being in the U.S. without proper documentation, Harkins said, then the jail notifies ICE. Often, he said, undocumented immigrants booked into jail are forthcoming about their immigration status.

Living in the U.S. without citizenship or proper residency status is a federal civil offense, not a criminal one, according to Kate Evans, director of the Immigration Law Clinic at the University of Idaho, making the terms “illegal immigrant” and “illegal immigration” misleading and often inaccurate.

If ICE confirms that someone booked into jail is undocumented, then the agency may choose to place a detainer on the person, Harkins and immigration attorneys said. The number and type of offenders ICE chooses to detain changes with the administration in power, Harkins said. He recalls that during the later years of the Obama

administration, he received fewer detainees than he does today.

"In my opinion, they weren't putting as many holds on," he said. "I've been up here for 25 years, and the focus was always on aggravated felons—the people who had already been convicted of serious crimes, the ones who had spent time in prison, the prior deportees and violent offenders."

Now, following a string of orders from U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, ICE has essentially eliminated that discretion; in the time since President Donald Trump took office, Harkins said, he's seen the number of detainees rise, holding those suspected of lesser offenses than before.

The detainee asks the jail to hold the person for 48 hours beyond any time when he or she would normally be released—that could be posting bail before trial, being sentenced to time served or completing a jail term—and for the jail to notify ICE at the beginning of that additional 48-hour detention so the agency can send officers to Blaine County jail to take custody of the undocumented immigrant. If a prisoner is transferred to another jail or prison, the detainee asks the original jail to notify ICE of the move, and to notify the recipient institution of the detainee.

Harkins explained during multiple interviews in recent months that the Sheriff's Office policy to honor ICE detainees is longstanding.

"Our process here has not changed," Harkins said. "I've had no meetings with ICE and we're sticking to our same process."

When asked on April 17 if he was aware that ICE's detainee process with county jails has been ruled unconstitutional in various courts around the country, Harkins said he was aware of "decisions around the country that are constantly coming out and changing."

Harkins declined to explain why he chooses to continue to honor ICE's voluntary detainee requests.

"We're going to continue to cooperate with the federal authorities and honor the 48-hour detainees," he said. "That's my answer."

As an elected official and the chief law-enforcement officer in the county, Harkins sets the policy for the Sheriff's Office, which operates the Blaine County jail. His stance isn't shared across the entirety of county government: The Blaine County commissioners, who set the Sheriff's Office budget, feel different than Harkins about the detainees—though they stress that they cannot make policy for the agency.

"The sheriff makes the decision about whether to cooperate with ICE or not. I would prefer that we did not hold those individuals for the 48 hours," Commission Chairwoman Angenie McCleary said. "In setting the policy, I think it's really important for the sheriff to understand the commissioners' perspective."

"I worry—to me, this administration is quite racist, and I worry about the direction it'll take ICE. So far, ICE has a low

presence in Blaine County. There haven't been any roundups that I'm aware of. But, if ICE becomes more involved, or issues directives to law enforcement to get more directly involved, it would be concerning to [the commissioners] and, I'm sure, to the sheriff.

"Personally, I would be supportive of becoming a sanctuary county. I think that we need to be a safe community for everyone."

Commissioner Larry Schoen said he believes the policy may have existed for more than 30 years, and reiterated that Sheriff's Office policy is set by Harkins, not the commissioners.

Boise-based immigration attorney Chris Christensen said that by choosing to honor ICE detainees, Harkins could be opening the county to liability; detainees held on ICE detainees around the United States have successfully sued counties and their law-enforcement agencies on Fourth Amendment grounds.

"You don't have an impartial magistrate looking at [detainees] and determining probable cause, so I think it is a Fourth Amendment violation," Christensen said. "There's really nothing that binds local jails to [honor detainees]. So, what you see now is local communities choosing not to honor those."

He said an increasing number of district courts are ruling detainees unconstitutional. In the temporary restraining order it issued in *Antonio Sanchez-Ochoa v. Ed Campbell et al* last summer, the U.S. District Court for the District of Eastern Washington cited many such cases.

In a 45-page order issued July 31, Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr. wrote that even though federal law states that state and local law enforcement may communicate with federal law enforcement—including about individuals' immigration status—the laws regarding such interaction "do not affirmatively grant authority to state or local officers to make arrests not otherwise authorized by state law."

Because immigration violations are federal civil offenses, and not violations of state law, state and local police lack the authority to detain people for them, Mendoza wrote, even if it's at ICE's request.

"Courts around the country have held that local law-enforcement officials violate the Fourth Amendment when they temporarily detain individuals for immigration violations without probable cause," Mendoza continued, stressing that detainees and ICE's civil warrants lack such a finding.

In 2014, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon ruled in *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County* that "detention pursuant to an ICE detainee request is a Fourth Amendment seizure that must be supported by probable cause or a warrant."

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Illinois came to a similar conclusion in *Jimenez Moreno et al v. Napolitano*, which nullified thousands of detainees issued

mostly across the northern Midwest, and in 24 other states, by ICE's Chicago field office.

ICE's detainer process with local jails has yet to be adjudicated by federal court in Idaho, though in January two people held on detainees filed separate lawsuits against Canyon County and its sheriff, ICE and the Department of Homeland Security.

In one case, the Canyon County jail allegedly refused to allow a woman to post bail for her husband, who was held on a DUI charge, because he was the subject of a detainer. A second lawsuit alleges that the Canyon County jail refused bail for a different man held on a DUI charge and subject to a detainer, and that the jail still refused to release him after being ordered to do so by a judge.

Christensen said those cases could potentially lead to rulings in Idaho on the constitutionality of detainees. However, the allegations in the cases reflect a slightly different process than what occurs in Blaine County. Here, Harkins and defense attorneys said, defendants subject to detainees can post bail, but they will be held for an additional 48 hours before being released, because of the detainer, and ICE will be notified at the beginning of that period.

The agency typically takes custody of people when they post bail, Harkins said, leaving their local criminal proceedings in limbo as ICE pursues removal proceedings in Tacoma, Wash.

Despite the controversy surrounding ICE's detainer process with local jails, and the resilience of the policy in some places despite mounting case law against it, Christensen said he worries that the general public is often uninformed about immigration enforcement.

"I feel that very few people understand how the system actually works," he said. "It's something that I think the public needs more information about before they form such strong opinions."

Express reporter Mark Dee contributed to this story.

## **Attorney: Only Sheriff, Not Supervisors, Can Kick ICE Out Of Pima County Jail**

By Joe Ferguson

[Arizona Daily Star](#), July 4, 2018

A fight brewing over whether the Pima County Board of Supervisors can kick U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers out of the county-run jail might be over.

Deputy County Attorney Regina Nassen told supervisors in a confidential memo last week that such a decision largely rests with Pima County Sheriff Mark Napier and not the supervisors.

The sheriff — not the board — has general authority to operate the jail, and while the board controls the sheriff's budget and has authority to make a few other specific fiscal decisions concerning jail operations, it cannot do so in a way

that unreasonably interferes with the sheriff's discretionary decisions, she wrote.

The board voted on Tuesday to release the 13-page legal analysis, including a letter sent by the American Civil Liberties Union that outlined legal arguments as to how the supervisors could force Napier's hand and push out the federal agency.

Nassen repeatedly countered the legal analysis.

"The ACLU Memo incorrectly analyzes the legal authorities cited in it and ignores other relevant Arizona authorities addressing the scope or the Board's authority over elected officials. As a result, it materially overstates the Board's authority over the operation of the jail," Nassen wrote.

The legal opinion is unlikely to quiet the increased calls from the public for the county to formally sever its ties to ICE.

During their Tuesday morning meeting, several residents encouraged the supervisors to take bold action and ignore the advice from what they are labeling as an overly cautious county attorney.

Supervisor Richard Elías is adamant that he wants the federal agency out of the county-run jail.

"We want them out of there," he said. "I want them out of there, and I know that I am not the only one."

The calls to push ICE out reached a peak two weeks ago at the last supervisors meeting, with several activists making their case directly to elected officials.

Elías said the county has enough trouble just keeping things running without dealing with immigration issues.

"It is a tangled-up mess operating the jail," Elías said.

He said he believes ICE can operate in the Tucson community without being inside the jail, noting that former Sheriff Clarence Dupnik worked with the feds for decades without the federal presence in the jail.

The conversation on Tuesday is only the beginning, Elías said, with supervisors getting a better understanding of their legal authority regarding the day-to-day operations at the jail.

Elías said he won't back down.

"I think there is going to be a showdown," he predicted.

Supervisor Sharon Bronson agreed with her Democratic colleague, saying that ICE officers do not belong inside the Pima County jail.

But there isn't consensus about that on the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

The newest member, Republican Steve Christy, sees no reason to remove ICE from the county jail.

"It is extremely efficient, there are no costs involved, it protects the public, and I think the sheriff has done a remarkable job," Christy said.

Christy said he has spoken to Napier several times on the subject, describing ICE's presence inside the jail as a federal agent operating out of a single, relatively small room.

The supervisor added that a majority of his constituents are supportive of ICE inside the jail and that the local criticism of the federal agency inside the jail has only bubbled up recently.

It is unclear what steps the supervisors may take on the issue, although the board is scheduled next month to discuss a million dollar federal border-security grant known as Operation Stonegarden that covers overtime, mileage and equipment costs for the Sheriff's Department.

Contact reporter Joe Ferguson at [jferguson@tucson.com](mailto:jferguson@tucson.com) or 573-4197. Reporter Caitlin Schmidt contributed to this story.

## **Immigrant Lockup To Open On Site Of Destroyed Texas Prison**

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas (AP) – Officials in a remote South Texas county have approved a contract to open a privately run, 1,000-bed immigration lockup on the site of a tent city prison that was destroyed during a 2015 riot.

The Valley Morning Star of Harlingen reports that Willacy County commissioners on Monday agreed to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center outside Raymondville, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the U.S.-Mexico border city of Brownsville.

County Judge Aurelio Guerra says the new lockup will boost the local economy.

The prison that housed 3,000 inmates in tent-like domes closed after the 2015 uprising. A county lawsuit blamed the riot on "abysmal mismanagement" by Utah-based Management & Training Corp.

Management & Training, which bought the site last year, will operate the new immigrant facility.

Information from: Valley Morning Star,  
<http://www.valleystar.com>

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## **Honduran Man Held In S. Georgia Moved Closer To Son In Arizona**

By Jeremy Redmon

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), July 3, 2018

A Honduran man who was separated from his 3-year-old son and detained in South Georgia amid the Trump administration's crackdown on the southwest border was moved this week closer to the government shelter where his boy is being held in Arizona.

Jose — he asked that his full name not be published because he has received death threats in his homeland — was transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement's Eloy Detention Center in Eloy, Arizona, this week. His son is about 70 miles northwest in a government shelter in Glendale, Ariz. They have been separated for more than a month.

These developments come as the federal government is scrambling to comply with a federal judge's sharply-worded order from last week and reunite more than 2,200 immigrant families who were separated during the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy. Judge Dana Sabraw of the U.S. District Court in San Diego has given the government 14 days to comply for children under 5.

"The government has no system in place to keep track of, provide effective communication with, and promptly produce alien children," the judge wrote in his order granting a preliminary injunction. "The unfortunate reality is that under the present system, migrant children are not accounted for with the same efficiency and accuracy as property."

Jose, a 27-year-old farmer, was transferred from Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga., to the Folkston ICE Processing Center near the Georgia-Florida border. Then he was taken to a facility in Florence, Arizona, before he arrived in Eloy Monday, said his attorney, Peter Isbister. Isbister has asked ICE to release him so he can be reunited with his son while their asylum claim is being considered. He has an immigration court hearing scheduled for July 19.

"What is exactly going to happen? I am cautiously holding my breath they are just going to release the two of them in Arizona," said Isbister, a senior lead attorney for Southern Poverty Law Center's Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative.

Honduran consular officials tracked Jose's son to the government shelter in Glendale after The Atlanta Journal-Constitution contacted them about his family's situation. Last month, the Honduran consul general in Dallas received an email from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement that said the boy had been having weekly video conference calls with his mother, who remained behind in Honduras.

As he was being held in South Georgia, Jose told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution he left Honduras with his son after receiving death threats from a member of a criminal group who killed two of his uncles and a cousin. Since 2010, Honduras has had one of the highest murder rates in the world, according to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

First-time offenses for illegally crossing the border typically result in civil deportation hearings. But everyone caught illegally crossing the southwest border was being prosecuted under the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy. A first-time offense is a misdemeanor that can carry up to six months behind bars. Jose has been arrested at the border and been deported previously. Illegally reentering the country after a deportation is a felony, which can be punishable with up to two years in prison. But Jose's attorney

said he and his son were detained and separated after they sought asylum at a legal port of entry in Hidalgo, Texas.

## **Texas Sheriff Maurice Cook Defends 'Zero Tolerance' Arrests**

By Matthew Martinez

[McClatchy](#), July 3, 2018

"Zero tolerance" seems to be the hot-button issue of the moment.

The Trump administration recently responded to criticism by amending its "zero tolerance" policy at the U.S.-Mexico border by stopping the practice of separating families whose members are detained for alleged immigration violations.

Now a local sheriff in Texas is defending his recent "zero tolerance" operation that netted 24 arrests, 23 of whom were defendants with Hispanic surnames, according to the Austin American-Statesman. Thirteen of those 23 were subsequently seized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation hearings, KVUE reported.

The operation in question took place June 23 in the immigrant-heavy Stoney Point neighborhood in the town of Del Valle, just east of Austin. Bastrop County Sheriff Maurice Cook called it "routine" in a news release posted on Facebook, saying that "zero tolerance" in this case only meant that if a traffic law was broken some sort of enforcement action would be taken by deputies conducting traffic stops in the area. SIGN UP

"The initiative had nothing to do with immigration," Cook wrote in the release. "In the field, the deputies do not have access to the database needed to inquire about or verify citizenship. It is simply not a factor for the deputies who patrol Bastrop County."

Cook, a Republican, is the former head of the Texas Rangers.

But one local faith group, along with Mexico's consul for Austin and state Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, disagree.

That 23 of the 24 arrested were Hispanic, and that 13 of them were detained by ICE, smacks of law enforcement targeting the immigrant community, a group called Bastrop Interfaith said in a statement.

"By this action, which appears to have been against immigrants, the sheriff has not increased people's confidence in law enforcement, which is what we had sought and strived to obtain in our prior dialogue with the sheriff," the Bastrop Interfaith statement read.

The Statesman reported that the June 23 "zero tolerance" operation had come in response to a request for more law enforcement visibility in that area. However, Cook's release states that the faith group made demands that his office pledge not to arrest people for driving without a license or ask about citizenship status.

"Even if I was inclined to do so as demanded (which I am not) in order to meet this group's demands, I and the deputies who work for the Sheriff's Office would have to violate the solemn, enforceable oaths we took to enforce laws," Cook said in the release.

Two of those arrested were taken into custody on suspicion of DUI, according to the release. Another was arrested on suspicion of cocaine possession. But others, according to the Statesman, were arrested for offenses such as failure to use a blinker while changing lanes or for having an obscured license plate.

Cook disputed that report, saying in his release that no arrests were made "for minor equipment violations or minor moving violations."

"There was clearly a special operation on the border between Bastrop and Travis [counties], and there was clearly a decision not to cite and release the offenders of these traffic violations in case the officer suspected that they were undocumented," Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, the Mexico consul, told the newspaper. "We are very concerned that this takes to a new level the collaboration between police and the immigration authorities."

Rep. Rodriguez, D-Austin, tweeted a statement, which read in part: "The limited facts available suggest a clear-cut case of racial profiling and organized immigration enforcement in cooperation with federal authorities. The sheriff's office may have caused long-term damage to its relationship with the community and seriously threatened public safety in a single evening."

## **Palm Beach Manager Reports To ICE Again**

By Ian Cohen

[Palm Beach \(FL\) Daily News](#), July 3, 2018

Francisco Javier Gonzalez's ankle monitor was removed and the Palm Beach restaurant manager was given 30 days to contest a reinstated removal order in a meeting with immigration officials Tuesday.

Gonzalez was given the 30-day extension the same day he was supposed to board a plane to Mexico on the orders of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Instead, ICE reversed its orders last week. Officials told Gonzalez to cancel his one-way plane ticket to Mexico after they found several issues with the reinstated order of removal they had issued Gonzalez, which included a paperwork error, according to his lawyer, Richard Hujber.

ICE gave Gonzalez a modified reinstatement of his removal order Tuesday, and his lawyers, Hujber and Rebeca Sanchez-Roig, will have 30 days to contest the reinstatement.

The decision came after nearly two hours of waiting for what was supposed to be a short meeting at the ICE office in Miramar, where Gonzalez's lawyers nervously paced the waiting room and left voicemails for immigration officials, asking what was taking so long.

Finally, Gonzalez emerged — without the black ankle monitor he was given on June 12. Hujber hugged him.

"You can take it easy tomorrow," Hujber said.

"Every day we get is a good day," Sanchez-Roig said.

"Amen," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez's removal order stems from 16 years ago when Gonzalez, now 37, entered the United States from Mexico for the second time using what he thought was a valid visa. Immigration officials told him his visa was not valid, deported him, issued him an expedited order of removal and a five-year ban from entering the country.

Gonzalez and his lawyers say he was never told he was being given a removal order. Gonzalez re-entered the United States before the five years were up and has lived and worked in Palm Beach County since, eventually becoming the manager of Pizza Al Fresco, marrying and fathering three daughters, ages 11, 8 and 6.

Along with contesting the reinstatement of Gonzalez's removal order Gonzalez was issued Tuesday, Hujber and Sanchez-Roig said they plan to file a motion to rescind Gonzalez's initial removal order with the Houston Office of Customs and Border Protection. They are also waiting to hear from a federal court, where they filed a petition last week to request that a court prevent ICE from taking Gonzalez into custody.

## Teen Taken At U.S. Border Tells Of 'Icebox' Cages With 60 Girls

By Erik Larson

[Bloomberg News](#), July 3, 2018

A 15-year-old girl who was forcibly separated from her mother after fleeing to the U.S. from El Salvador described to a Washington State investigator how she was crammed into a windowless room with 60 other girls and deprived of proper sleep or food for three days.

The room was divided by wire fencing into three cages, with each one holding 20 separated girls — some as young as 3 years old, according to an affidavit filed late Monday in federal court in Seattle. The girls, who weren't told when they'd see their parents again, called it the "icebox."

"The place was freezing because they kept the air conditioner on all the time, and each child was given a mat and an aluminum blanket," the investigator for Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson wrote. "The girls placed their mats in the floor very close to one another, since there was not enough space."

The affidavit is part of a lawsuit by 17 states and the District of Columbia that seeks to block the child-separation policy on constitutional grounds. The states on Monday asked the court to order the government to begin quickly turning over evidence.

"The states have repeatedly demanded basic information about their well-being, but were answered with silence," according to the filing.

## States Invoke 'Internment Camps' in Family-Separation Suit

More than 2,000 children were taken under the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy for prosecuting illegal border crossings and sent to states across the U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order to halt the practice started by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, but the directive may conflict with the zero-tolerance policy. The administration, which hasn't yet answered the suit, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The girl from El Salvador, identified as "G" in the filing, said agents kicked their mats daily at 4 a.m. to count them, and woke them again for meager meals. The guards refused to provide comfort to the youngest detainees and wouldn't allow them to make phone calls, according to the filing.

Maricela Batres, a mother from El Salvador whose 8-year-old son was taken in May, described in another affidavit how she fled to the U.S. after the MS-13 gang threatened to kill them if she didn't pay \$300 a month as "rent" for the store she ran — money she didn't have.

Immigration agents detained Batres and her son at the border and put them in what she called a "kennel," where they slept on the ground with aluminum blankets. That's when she and others were informed their children would be taken away, she said.

"One said, 'It is the price to pay for crossing the border,'" she said.

[Click here](#) to read some of the affidavits

New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood described in a filing how a distraught boy from South America was rushed to a hospital after trying to jump out of a second-story window in the group home where he was being held. At least 300 children were moved to New York, she said.

A 17-year-old Guatemalan said she was taken from her father and put in a house with a dozen other girls. She said guards scared the girls — some as young as 6 years old — by saying things like, "You will see what will happen next to you." Some were told they'd go to jail. A female officer later "would tell them that was a lie and tried to calm the girls down saying her colleagues were lying," the girl said.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

### Delco Man Convicted Of Hiding Past As Liberian War Criminal

By Jeremy Roebuck, Kelly Brennan

[Philly \(PA\)](#), July 3, 2018

A Delaware County man accused of hiding his past as a top lieutenant to Liberian warlord Charles Taylor was

convicted Tuesday on federal immigration fraud charges — the second historic verdict of its kind in Philadelphia and one that renewed calls for further accountability in the West African nation where war criminals have gone unpunished for decades.

Thomas Woewiyu, a 73-year-old Collingdale grandfather and former spokesperson and defense minister for Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), is the highest-ranking official to be found guilty of crimes tied to the numerous documented atrocities that occurred during Liberia's first civil war — a multifaction conflict that ravaged the country between 1989 and 1997.

His conviction comes months after a Liberian expat in East Lansdowne — Mohammed "Jungle Jabbah" Jabateh — was sentenced to 30 years in prison in a similar case tied to misdeeds committed while fighting against Taylor's forces.

Neither Woewiyu nor Jabateh was specifically charged with the acts of torture, ethnically targeted killing, and conscription of child soldiers that government witnesses attributed to them or their fighters. Still, federal prosecutors and human-rights advocates claimed victory in the convictions of both men for lying to U.S. immigration authorities about those misdeeds.

"We hope that some of the [victims] find some solace in this," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Linwood C. Wright Jr., who prosecuted the case along with cocounsel Nelson S.T. Thayer Jr. "We hope they understand that there are people who in fact care about their experience and want to see them have justice."

Across the Atlantic, Hassan Bility, director of the Monrovia-based nonprofit Global Justice and Research Project, echoed the sentiment.

"Never before were the crimes of the NPFL described in such detail in a courtroom," he said. "An important piece of our history was documented during this trial."

In keeping with his stoic behavior throughout the three-week trial, Woewiyu sat stone-faced as the jury forewoman read out 11 guilty verdicts to counts including perjury and attempting to fraudulently obtain U.S. citizenship. He was acquitted of five additional counts.

Woewiyu declined to comment as he left the courthouse with his family Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Anita Brody ordered him kept under house arrest until his sentencing in October.

Much of the testimony during the trial came from about a dozen Liberians flown in from Africa to recount their horrific experiences during the war.

Some testified they sought to flee the violence, only to be herded through NPFL checkpoints decorated with severed heads and strings of human intestines. Two men described how Taylor's rebels rounded up and murdered nearly every man in their Muslim farming community.

And in perhaps the most wrenching testimony of the trial, a former child soldier showed jurors his mutilated hand, damaged eyes, and shrapnel wounds on his shoulders — combat injuries he sustained at age 12 after he was kidnapped and pressed into fighting by men under Woewiyu's command.

But unlike Jabateh, who dismissed much of the testimony from his countrymen as lies during his trial in October, Woewiyu rarely questioned the truth of the disturbing wartime accounts related by government witnesses. Instead, his lawyers — Mark Wilson and Catherine C. Henry — questioned what any of it had to do with their client's case.

Since his 2014 arrest at Newark International Airport, Woewiyu has maintained that he was unaware of the worst excesses of Taylor's regime and that he always had been open with U.S. authorities about his ties to the NPFL.

At the height of the conflict in the 1990s, he had frequent conversations with U.S. State Department officials and discussed his role in depth with FBI agents investigating another Liberian in 2012.

Woewiyu's lawyers chalked up his initial failure to mention his prominent position in Taylor's regime on his 2006 application for U.S. citizenship as a mistake.

"There was no reason to hide his past," Henry said during her closing arguments to jurors Monday. "It was all over the internet. Everybody knew."

Indeed, Woewiyu became for many Liberians one of the most recognizable names during the war, whether as a voice espousing NPFL rhetoric from radio speakers or as a military adviser helping to raise and arm a militia to fight on Taylor's behalf.

And although he has primarily lived in the United States as a legal permanent resident since the 1970s, he has held significant positions in the Liberian government over the last three decades.

His stature both in his home country and in the Philadelphia area's 15,000-strong Liberian expat community only fueled interest in his case.

Newspapers in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, closely covered the trial, granting it a totemic status that extended beyond any specific crimes Woewiyu himself may have committed.

More than 200,000 civilians died during the war, but no one has ever been held criminally responsible in Liberia for the documented atrocities committed by factions on all sides.

Taylor, who went on to become Liberia's president, was eventually convicted of war crimes by an international court in 2012 — but for actions tied to a civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. And some former rebel leaders continue to hold positions of power within the government.

"Hopefully," Wright, the prosecutor, said Tuesday, "there are people in Liberia today who will see that there is a chance for justice."

## **SECRET SERVICE**

### **Secret Service Warns Of Gas Pump Card Skimmers As July 4 Travel Hits**

By Pierre Thomas, Luke Barr Geneva Sands

[ABC News](#), July 3, 2018

As Fourth of July travel heats up, the U.S. Secret Service is warning motorists, businesses and police of a disturbing surge in criminals' stealing credit information at gas pumps.

Fraudsters are installing a tiny device called a skimmer inside the gas pump.

The device copies credit card information when customers pay.

"So what happens is you go to your local gas station, you put in your payment card, you pump your gas and you drive home," Matthew O'Neill, assistant to the special agent in charge of the Criminal Investigative Division, said. "But in what's in reality happening is during that transmission process, a skimmer is acting in between where you put your card in and the point of sale terminal that's transmitting the data to a financial institution and they're stealing your payment card numbers."

This past weekend, the Secret Service fanned out across the nation — at more than 80 locations in 21 states — hunting for the devices.

The Secret Service has recovered 59 skimmers from 85 locations during the initiative.

Once criminals have the credit card information, they are able to print fraudulent credit cards by the thousands and use those cards to make purchases.

"They're monetizing the stolen payment card data in multiple ways and the easiest way is they'll take the stolen payment card number and will re-encode a gift card or credit card and then they will use that to buy electronics, gift cards, stuff that they can fence on grey market, the black market or the open market," O'Neill explained to ABC News.

The Secret Service says that millions of dollars every year are being swiped from credit card information obtained at the pump. It says one reason it is so easy is it can be done so quickly.

"It will take just a matter of minutes depending on the level of tradecraft that the fraudster has," O'Neill said.

A high-level skimmer can send credit card information through a Bluetooth device and not have to return to the scene of the crime.

"With a Bluetooth skimmer you don't ever have to retrieve the skimmer if you don't want to because the data is

being sent through the Bluetooth device to another internet connected device," O'Neill said.

To reduce the chance of having credit information being stolen, here are some options. Customers can pay with credit cards inside the gas station, rather than at the pump.

And paying with cash may be the most effective way to thwart card theft at the pump.

### **Gas Pump Credit Card Skimmers Set To Steal Ahead Of July 4th Travel, Secret Service Warns**

By Joshua Hafner

[USA Today](#), July 3, 2018

Motorists about to pay at gas pumps ahead of the July 4 holiday should ask themselves a question, the Secret Service says: Could I get defrauded?

The agency announced an effort targeting credit card "skimmers" hidden at fuel pumps to steal financial information — and finances — from unsuspecting motorists. The initiative, unfolding this week ahead of Independence Day travels, has agents inspecting pumps in 21 states.

"The Secret Service is leading the charge to protect the U.S. consumer against this growing cyber-enabled financial crime," the agency said Tuesday in a statement, reporting a Memorial Day effort last month that turned up over 70 such skimmers.

Skimmers are small, electronic devices installed secretly at pumps and able to capture a swiped payment card's protected data, the agency said. Commercial keys purchased online let fraudsters access pumps often left unattended, according to a report from ABC News.

Thieves then return later to retrieve the devices or transmit it remotely via Bluetooth, before using the information to make purchases, Matthew O'Neil, a representative of the agency, told the network.

Fuel pumps became a popular target for skimming because it's relatively easy to hide and retrieve the devices, the Secret Service explained, meaning "making arrests in skimming cases is difficult — but not impossible."

The agency's warning comes as Americans pack up for the biggest July 4th travel period possibly ever, with AAA expecting 45 million-plus Americans to fuel up for trips of 50 miles or more. (And with gas hitting a four-year high, they'll pay at the pump, fraud or not.)

To avoid fraudster, the best advice boils down to this: Pay inside. If that's not an option, Officer John Saenz of Texas' McAllen Police Department offered tips to KGBT-TV.

"Wiggle the card reader: If there's any signs of tampering, obviously report that to the attendant that's at that location," he told the station. Look out for removed security strips or other signs of tampering, he said, and opt for pumps closest to the store.

Follow Josh Hafner on Twitter: @joshhafner

## Gas Pump Card Skimmers Targeted In July Fourth Holiday Sweep By Feds

By Kate Gibson

[CBS News](#), July 3, 2018

With more than 44 million Americans expected to hit the road for Independence Day travel, federal agents took part in a nationwide effort to find and remove illegal credit card skimming devices from fuel stations in 21 states, the Secret Service said Tuesday.

The card-reading devices called “skimmers” are installed by would-be thieves either outside or inside a fuel dispenser, capturing information that can then be used by scammers.

Agents from 36 field offices this week were inspecting pumps for the devices used to steal encoded information on credit cards and debit cards, with fueling stations a prime target as they are typically unattended and in frequent use. That may offer at least some comfort to Americans already forking over the most in four years to fill up their gas tanks this July 4 holiday.

“The Secret Service is leading the charge to protect the U.S. consumer against this growing cyber-enabled financial crime,” said the agency, which noted it recovered more than 70 of the devices during its recent Memorial Day operation.

Of course the agency’s efforts are no guarantee that such a fraud won’t occur.

The National Association of Convenience Stores, or NACS, recommends that consumers use a PIN whenever possible, saying it significantly reduces the risk of having information compromised.

If a dispenser door has a broken security tape or looks to have been forced open or tampered with, shut it down and call a technician to inspect it to see if an internal device has been installed, the association advised.

Tell-tale signs of an external skimmer have been placed over an existing keypad include one that is loosely installed and wiggles, according to NACS, which advises running a fingernail along the edge of the keypad to see if it is raised. A new keypad on a weathered-looking dispenser is another warning sign.

While there’s no reliable data on the number of skimming incidents, once installed, a skimmer captures an average of 30 to 100 cards a day, according to NACS.

Of course, paying for gas inside the service station is another idea for those willing to take a short walk to reduce the chances of having their card information swiped.

## Fraudsters Are Stealing Credit Card Information At Gas Stations

By Yaron Steinbuch

[New York Post](#), July 3, 2018

The Secret Service is warning Americans about to hit the road on the Fourth of July to be wary of being taken for a ride at the gas pump — where fraudsters are targeting their credit card information.

Scammers have been installing tiny devices inside the pumps called skimmers, which copy customers’ credit card data.

This past weekend, the Secret Service canvassed the nation in search of the devices — recovering 59 of them at 85 locations.

“So what happens is you go to your local gas station, you put in your payment card, you pump your gas and you drive home,” Matthew O’Neill, assistant to the special agent in charge of the Criminal Investigative Division, told ABC News.

“But what’s in reality happening is during that transmission process, a skimmer is acting in between where you put your card in and the point of sale terminal that’s transmitting the data to a financial institution and they’re stealing your payment card numbers.”

The swindlers gain access into the machines by buying commercial keys that can open the pumps online, according to the news outlet.

Once the criminals have a customer’s information, they can print fraudulent credit cards and use them to make purchases.

“They’re monetizing the stolen payment card data in multiple ways and the easiest way is they’ll take the stolen payment card number and will re-encode a gift card or credit card and then they will use that to buy electronics, gift cards, stuff that they can fence on gray market, the black market or the open market,” O’Neill told ABC News.

see also

NYPD tests new gadget to fight credit card skimmers

Meet the “Skim Reaper.” The NYPD is testing a new...

According to the Secret Service, millions of dollars are being swiped each year from credit card information pilfered at the pump.

“It will take just a matter of minutes depending on the level of tradecraft that the fraudster has,” O’Neill said.

A sophisticated skimmer can send credit card data through a Bluetooth device.

“With a Bluetooth skimmer you don’t ever have to retrieve the skimmer if you don’t want to because the data is being sent through the Bluetooth device to another internet-connected device,” he said.

To reduce the chance of being victimized, customers can pay with credit cards inside the gas station, rather than at the pump — but the safest way to pay is with good old cash.

## Beware Fuel Pump Credit Card Skimmers, Secret Service Warns

By Brittany Shoot  
[Fortune](#), July 3, 2018

With record travel predicted for this July Fourth holiday, travelers are already preparing for higher gas prices at the pump. But the Secret Service has a warning for road-tripping revelers on the extra-long Independence Day weekend: Watch out for credit card skimmers when you're fueling up at gas stations.

Credit card skimmers are small, electronic devices that criminals can install inside the card reader at a gas pump and are undetectable to consumers. When people swipe their cards to make a payment, the skimmer copies the card's data. Some skimmers must be physically retrieved by the criminals to capture consumers' payment data, but newer types use Bluetooth technology to send out the information to crooks.

Card skimmers have become such a rampant issue that federal agents are warning holiday travelers to take precautions. Over the weekend, Secret Service agents went on a skimmer hunt, looking in over 80 locations in 21 states. They found an alarming 59 skimmers, according to ABC News. The Secret Service estimates that millions of dollars are stolen from consumers hit by skimmers every year.

Summer gas prices are high enough this year without having to deal with credit card fraud. One way to avoid skimmers is to pay inside the gas station. And while that might sound antiquated, there's an even better way keep your credit card data safe: pay cash.

## **Maryland Man Charged With Assaulting Secret Service Agent**

[U.S. News & World Report](#), July 3, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Maryland man is accused of assaulting a uniformed U.S. Secret Service officer outside the White House while shouting for officers to kill him.

The Washington Post reports 20-year-old Steven Carmona of Wheaton, Maryland, was released from jail Tuesday and charged with assault. Court documents say an officer told Carmona he couldn't park in a crosswalk near the White House. They say Carmona then "squared-off" against an officer and was taken to the ground by officers.

They say Carmona then punched one officer twice in the face. They say Carmona was shouting "where is the president" and "just end it, just kill me." Carmona must report for drug testing and avoid a four-block area around the White House.

The newspaper reports it couldn't reach Carmona and his lawyer for comment.

Information from: The Washington Post,  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

## **Man Charged With Assaulting Secret Service Agent Outside White House**

By Peter Hermann  
[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

A 20-year-old man was released from jail Tuesday after being charged with assaulting a uniformed U.S. Secret Service officer outside the White House while shouting "Where is the president?" federal court records say.

Steven Carmona, of Wheaton, Md., who will turn 21 on Saturday, must report for drug testing and stay away from a four-square-block area around the White House.

Authorities said Carmona parked a gray BMW 330i in a crosswalk at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW at a pedestrian promenade in front of the White House at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Federal court documents indicate the officer told Carmona he couldn't park there. Carmona "didn't respond," the documents say, and walked east on Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House.

The documents say the officer again demanded Carmona move his vehicle. Carmona wanted to know why, police said, and the officer repeated that he couldn't park on a sidewalk.

Police said Carmona "squared-off" against a Secret Service officer in an apparent attempt to fight. Officers took Carmona to the ground, where police said he hit the officer in the jaw and above his right eye with a fist.

Neither Carmona nor his federal public defender could be reached for comment.

He has a preliminary hearing scheduled for July 25. The crime is classified a misdemeanor.

Authorities said Carmona was shouting, "Where is the president?" and told officers, "Just end it, just kill me."

Court documents say he tried to kick officers after being arrested and tried to head-butt the walls of the prisoner transport van. Police said he was transferred to an ambulance, where he was strapped to a stretcher after spitting at officers and medical staff.

## **Secret Service Officer Might Have Concussion After Getting Punched At Immigration Rally**

By Thomas Phippen  
[Daily Caller](#), July 3, 2018

Prosecutors have charged a man with punching a Secret Service officer in the jaw during an immigration protest in front of the White House Saturday.

The man, identified in court documents as Carmona, allegedly parked his BMW and attempted to move a barrier in Lafayette Square, just north of the White House fence, before punching the officer in the jaw and left eye, NBC News reported.

"Where is the president?" he yelled at the officers, according to the documents.

"Carmona was placed under arrest for assaulting a federal law enforcement officer," the affidavit obtained by NBC stated. "While being placed under arrest, Carmona asked 'Where is the President?' He also stated to officers 'Just end it, just kill me.'"

The Secret Service officer Tyler Young might have suffered a concussion and a knee injury. It's not clear whether the man identified as Carmona was part of the Families Belong Together rally, which attracted thousands to rally in front of the White House. (RELATED: Crazy Immigration Protester Foams At Mouth, Goes On Unhinged Rant)

The rally was organized by a coalition of Democratic and progressive groups, including MoveOn, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

## **Frisco Wealth Manager Bobby Guess Sentenced To 12 Years For Securities Fraud**

By Aidan Quigley

[Dallas Morning News](#), July 3, 2018

Frisco wealth manager Bobby Guess was sentenced to 12 years in prison as part of a plea bargain stemming from charges of more than \$6 million in fraud, money laundering, theft and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Guess, 66, was sentenced Tuesday in Collin County court for one count of securities fraud greater than \$100,000. The charges of property theft, money laundering and engaging in organized criminal activity were dismissed as part of the plea. He had been facing a maximum of 99 years in prison.

The Texas State Securities Board alleged that Guess and his firm, Texas First Financial, fraudulently promised 9 percent annualized returns and was selling investments without being registered as a securities dealer. He was indicted in December 2016 after an investigation by the TSSB and the U.S. Secret Service.

Guess was taken into custody after a short hearing and is being held in Collin County Jail. His lawyer, Knox Fitzpatrick, declined to comment. The TSSB also declined to comment.

Guess, who hosted a radio show called Dollars & Sense, was accused of running a Ponzi scheme, using investments in one company to pay off investors in another. For example, the TSSB alleged that he used investments in an advertising company, StaMedia, Inc., to repay previous investors their investment and a purported return on that investment. The authorities said StaMedia had not earned any significant revenue since its creation in 2013.

However, StaMedia's leaders were taking expensive vacations to Cabo San Lucas, Disney World, Montana and Vail, Colo., and purchasing luxury Land Rovers, Mercedes, Ferraris and Lamborghinis, the authorities allege.

Guess had also run into trouble for selling unregistered securities in 2015 when the Securities and Exchange Commission sued Georgia-based Credit Nation, where Guess was the vice president and owner. He was accused of running a Ponzi scheme there as well, and Credit Nation was placed in receivership by a federal judge.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **Judge Extends Housing For Puerto Rican Hurricane Evacuees**

[Associated Press](#), July 3, 2018

BOSTON (AP) — Hundreds of Puerto Rican hurricane evacuee families living in hotels across the U.S. can stay there for at least three more weeks, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Timothy Hillman in Massachusetts granted an extension of a restraining order temporarily blocking the evictions of the evacuees displaced by Hurricane Maria last September. The restraining order will last until at least midnight July 23, allowing the evacuees to stay until checkout time the following day.

The evacuees are living in hotels as part of the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program, but their housing was supposed to end last Sunday. On the eve of the program's expiration, a different federal judge provided the evacuees temporary relief.

There were about 1,700 families living in hotels Saturday, but the number was about 950 on Tuesday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said.

FEMA said in a statement Tuesday that it will comply with the order and notify hotels that the program has been extended, but declined further comment.

JayKarey Skeritt, who has been living in a Florida hotel since November, said she was grateful for the extension but didn't know if it would be enough time for her to find a more permanent place.

"I'm hoping to find something very small, even if it's just for a short time," said Skeritt, who's living with her partner and three boys in a Ramada hotel in Kissimmee. Skeritt said she first needed to find a job before she could look for housing.

When asked what her plan was, she shook her head and said in Spanish, "I don't know but I have hope."

Hillman said he wants to look into the matter further and asked both sides to file additional documents in the case.

"The judge has ruled that at least they should have the chance to make their case in court before being tossed onto

the street,” Hector Pineiro, one of the attorneys who brought the case on behalf of the Puerto Ricans, said in a statement. “For that we are grateful.”

This story has been corrected to show that 950 families were living in hotels as of Tuesday, not 1,700.

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## **Judge Orders Extension Of FEMA Aid For Puerto Rican Storm Evacuees**

By Patricia Mazzei

[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

MIAMI — The Federal Emergency Management Agency must continue to pay for temporary housing for Puerto Ricans displaced by Hurricane Maria for another 20 days, a federal judge ordered on Tuesday, another short reprieve for hundreds of families who have been unable to return to their homes.

The decision by Judge Timothy S. Hillman of United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts will allow Puerto Rican evacuees benefiting from FEMA’s temporary sheltering assistance program to remain in their government-paid hotel and motel rooms until checkout time on July 24 as the court holds further hearings to determine whether an additional extension is warranted.

The aid was supposed to end at midnight on Saturday, but it was extended until midnight on July 4 after a civil-rights advocacy group filed a class-action lawsuit arguing that withdrawing the assistance would put some Puerto Ricans at risk of homelessness. About 950 families on the mainland and the island were still receiving the aid as of Tuesday, according to FEMA.

That number is significantly smaller than the more than 1,700 families who were receiving aid under the program on Friday. They have been spread across more than 30 states, the biggest number in Florida, with a number of others in Puerto Rico, Massachusetts and New York.

“For now, at least families won’t be evicted,” said Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, associate counsel for LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the group that filed the complaint seeking a permanent injunction against FEMA.

William Booher, a spokesman for the agency, said in a statement that hotels would be notified of the judge’s continuation of the temporary restraining order, but he declined to comment on the case.

In a separate statement, FEMA said it was extending until Aug. 1 the deadline for hurricane victims living in motels under the program to obtain free airfare to fly home, along with coverage for luggage and pet transportation fees. The original cutoff was July 1.

In his order on Tuesday, Judge Hillman ordered the plaintiffs and FEMA to submit further briefings in writing. In particular, he asked them to address the implications of a refusal by Gov. Ricardo A. Rosselló of Puerto Rico to request an extension of the temporary sheltering assistance. FEMA argued the plaintiffs’ lawsuit would not succeed because Mr. Rosselló agreed to the termination of the program, which had been extended three times before the June 30 deadline.

Follow Patricia Mazzei on Twitter: @PatriciaMazzei.

## **Judge Orders Extension Of FEMA Housing Aid To Displaced Puerto Rico Families**

By Ray Sanchez

[CNN](#), July 3, 2018

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue paying temporary hotel stays for another 20 days for hundreds of Puerto Rican families displaced by Hurricane Maria.

The order by US District Court Judge Timothy Hillman represents another small reprieve for families who have been staying at hotels under FEMA’s Transitional Sheltering Assistance program – extending the housing vouchers until checkout time on July 24 as the court determines whether an additional extension is needed.

In a statement, FEMA spokesman William Booher declined to comment on pending litigation but said the agency was notifying hotels housing Puerto Rican hurricane survivors that the program was being extended until July 24 in compliance with the court order.

The federal agency said last week that it was ending the program June 30 after spending more than \$432 million on lodging for tens of thousands of hurricane survivors over 10 months.

But another Massachusetts US District Court judge last weekend issued a temporary injunction on the evictions until checkout time Wednesday in response to a complaint filed by the nonprofit LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

Hillman on Tuesday ordered both sides in the case to submit additional legal briefs on the matter before he issues a final decision by July 23.

“It’s inconceivable that disaster victims have to continue to bring FEMA to court to force them to uphold their mandate and not discontinue the most basic aid to entire communities that have suffered through unimaginable disasters,” LatinoJustice PRLDEF associate counsel Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan said in a statement.

“Fortunately, the court recognized the severity of the situation and the devastating consequences to evacuees who’ve already been displaced from their homes in Puerto Rico and is allowing them to stay in their hotels.”

FEMA’s order to end the program Saturday affected nearly 1,800 Puerto Ricans staying at the time at hotels and

motels on the island and the US mainland, where they lived rent-free under a voucher program the agency said was intended to bridge survivors into permanent housing.

Designed to be used for about two weeks, the program had been extended repeatedly.

For many, the injunction came too late. Since the weekend, many families have left their hotel rooms – either moving in with friends or relatives, returning to the island or transferring to local government housing for homeless families.

As of Tuesday, 952 families remained in TSA-paid hotel rooms on the island and 27 states, according to FEMA.

## **Puerto Rican Evacuees Caught Between Eviction Threat And Devastation**

By Joey Roulette

[Reuters](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Judge Rules That FEMA Must Extend Shelter Stays For Puerto Rican Evacuees Until July 23**

By Cristela Guerra

[Boston Globe](#), July 3, 2018

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency must extend the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program for Puerto Rican refugees displaced by Hurricane Maria through July 23.

The extension will keep several hundred families temporarily housed in hotels in 22 states and Puerto Rico for three more weeks.

In a statement posted to Twitter on Tuesday morning, FEMA spokesman William Booher said the agency would comply with the court's order and notify participating hotels of the extension.

"FEMA will continue to work with its vendors and notify hotels that the TSA program for Puerto Rico has been extended until July 23, with checkout on July 24."

Beyond that, FEMA will not comment on pending litigation, the statement said.

This is the sixth extension of the housing program and the second mandated by the courts.

The program was set to expire June 30, but national civil rights group LatinoJustice PRLDEF filed a last-minute class-action lawsuit on behalf of eight families living in hotels in Massachusetts and Florida. Attorneys argued that many families lost homes when Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and would effectively be left homeless if the TSA program ended. They also said that evicting refugees from hotels would violate their rights to due process.

In response, US District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin granted a temporary restraining order to stop the eviction of Puerto Rican evacuees nationwide.

Tuesday's ruling by US District Court Judge Timothy S. Hillman continues that restraining order and maintains the status quo until he receives further information from both parties.

"It's inconceivable that disaster victims have to continue to bring FEMA to court to force them to uphold their mandate and not discontinue the most basic aid to entire communities that have suffered through unimaginable disasters," Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, associate counsel at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, said in a statement.

"Fortunately, the court recognized the severity of the situation and the devastating consequences to evacuees who've already been displaced from their homes in Puerto Rico and is allowing them to stay in their hotels — a decision FEMA should've made on their own."

At its peak, an estimated 7,000 families were lodged through the TSA program, according to FEMA. As of July 2, there were 420 families living in hotels in 22 states and Puerto Rico. Approximately 51 families are in Massachusetts.

This is a significant difference from the numbers FEMA reported June 27 when there were 1,763 families staying in hotels in 30 states and Puerto Rico, including 222 households in Massachusetts. The impending June 30 deadline and last-minute extension created confusion as hotels and families weren't made aware of the injunction.

Attorneys with LatinoJustice PRLDEF said many families in several states ended up in shelters. FEMA said 188 families booked one-way flights back to Puerto Rico paid for by the agency as of June 28.

"This is not the first time FEMA has acted arbitrarily to cut off critical disaster relief to communities of color, though we hope it will be the last," Bannan said in the statement. "There is a long way to go before FEMA provides these individuals with the relief they need and deserve."

Cristela Guerra can be reached at [cristela.guerra@globe.com](mailto:cristela.guerra@globe.com). Follow her on Twitter @CristelaGuerra.

## **CYBER NEWS**

### **Lawmakers Should Accept Reality That Digital Communication Can Never Be 'Too Secure'**

By Chris Howell, Opinion Contributor —

[The Hill](#), July 4, 2018

The balance between security and privacy is more delicate than ever. Faced with global terrorism threats, the American people and courts have largely accepted infringements like warrantless bag searches in mass transit systems as a necessary evil. On the other hand, growing

cyber risks and continuous misuse of user data by service providers have evoked visceral public reactions to practices resembling “mass surveillance,” influencing tech companies to beef up security in their offerings and the Supreme Court to rule in favor of stronger privacy protections.

The latest tide of data protection improvements in communication apps and devices has fueled what may be the loudest security vs. privacy debate about whether the U.S. government can mandate extraordinary access or so-called “backdoors” in every technology to circumvent the progress the industry has made in protecting personal and business data. And while the majority of voices are debating the “can we” issue, the question of “should we” deserves as much if not more attention.

The majority of security experts have long argued that a “secure” backdoor that does not represent a net negative risk to the end user cannot be designed. However, it isn’t simply a question of whether we can find an acceptable technical solution to enable extra government access, it’s a matter of freedom, slippery slope decision-making and the kind of country we are prepared to live in.

In January, FBI Director Wray characterized law enforcement’s inability to access encrypted data as an “urgent public safety issue.” Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein encouraged lawmakers to pass legislation to force technology providers to re-architect their systems to enable government access. In 2016, the FBI served, then withdrew a legal demand to force the redesign of the iPhone’s security to facilitate the San Bernardino investigation. At the time, Apple resisted that order arguing that the demanded functionality was “too dangerous to create,” a position that other tech companies supported.

I have been close to this issue for most of my professional life. As a law enforcement officer and computer crime investigator, for nearly a decade, I executed search warrants against criminal suspects, conducted electronic surveillance and performed forensic analysis on digital evidence. In that capacity, at times, I saw the Constitution, despite its genius, as my toughest adversary, making catching criminals much harder. But as an information security professional, I also knew that criminal threats facing people and businesses I was serving to protect are real and relentless. And for those of us in the non-stop arms race against state and non-state attackers, there is never room for compromise.

As I teach digital privacy and security to undergrads, I have come to see how often new technologies become the harbinger of emerging privacy issues. Near the end of the 19th century, for instance, the invention of the portable camera and the rise of “yellow journalism” are said to have inspired Warren and Brandeis’s 1890 Harvard Law Review article “The Right to Privacy.” That piece provided a legal basis for the individual’s right to privacy in the United States.

The question we face now is do our rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness extend to securing our private information and property when and how we see fit? When viewed in proper light, the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution define a default government position as deferential to individual privacy. Take the Fourth Amendment, which protects people from unreasonable search and seizure, it clearly recognizes one’s business at home their own unless there is compelling evidence to warrant the trespass.

While those who argue that backdoors do not violate the Fourth Amendment may be technically correct to the extent that the government won’t actually exploit the backdoor without a warrant, they are missing a more important point. The Fourth Amendment obliges the government to obtain a search warrant, which provides the authority to overcome an individual’s privacy and search for information related to criminal activity. It does not oblige the citizen to possess the particular information sought by the government.

Flip these obligations around and we find ourselves on the edge of an extremely slippery slope. Do we now require everyone to make all of their actions available for government review in perpetuity? To be clear, we’re talking about individual citizens in their private affairs — not employees of regulated organizations or public servants conducting official business.

If the government can force service providers to implement an encryption scheme that grants access to private citizens’ data at some point in the future, what happens when customers decide to start deleting data so that it can’t be accessed? Would we be collectively ok with government having the power to force people and companies to save copies, just in case it’s ever needed? Would this edict extend to every computer file, every message, screen sharing over the web, and every phone call? If so, it is more than the power to investigate or protect. It becomes life on the record.

The slippery slope gets scarier as you go down. Can we outlaw gloves to ensure that fingerprints are left at every crime scene? Why not require all citizens to be tracked at all times? When we develop a device that can read another person’s thoughts, could we outlaw the tin foil hat to ensure that everyone’s thoughts are accessible to the government? Is anything out of bounds if the goal is security? Tread carefully the divide between can and should.

Finally, in a free society, do tech providers serve the interests of the customer or the government? Assuming one has the right to use “unbreakable” encryption, do they not also have the right to have someone build it for them? If, for argument’s sake, we say that American companies aren’t allowed to build it, then couldn’t citizens still encrypt their own data or turn to providers outside of U.S. jurisdiction? I’m not

seeing the point of all of this if we're only legislating how convenient it can be.

Providers are stuck in the middle of an argument that should be between government and the individual. It is time for lawmakers and everyone else who believes in mandatory backdoors to stand up straight, speak in a clear voice and call for an outright ban. Let's talk about an encryption ban or maybe even a ban on privacy in general. Let's publicly discuss the criminalization of any form of security that is "too good" for our own good. Let's call it what it is and have the debate — in the open. And when it's over, let's see what kind of country we have left.

Chris Howell is the CTO of Wickr, a secure communications company focused on transforming the way companies and organizations protect high-target communications.

## DOJ Report On Tackling Cyber Threats Forthcoming

### A daily briefing on politics and cybersecurity

By Tim Starks

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

SOON, VERY SOON — The Justice Department will soon release a report describing how its many agencies and components tackle cyber threats. DOJ officials delivered the report to Attorney General Jeff Sessions late last week, a department spokesman told Eric, four months after Sessions created a cyber task force to study DOJ's role in areas like election security, botnets, encryption and data breaches. "We plan to release the report at the Aspen Security Forum later this month," the spokesman, Ian Prior, said in an email. Prior didn't say exactly when that would happen, but the Aspen agenda shows that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is scheduled to make "an exclusive policy announcement" there on July 19.

Confirmation of the report's completion and its impending release came hours after the DNC tried to score points against the Trump administration for missing the June 30 deadline that Sessions set for the report. "It's clear Trump does not take the ongoing threat foreign adversaries pose to our election systems seriously," DNC Chief Technology Officer Raffi Krikorian said in a statement. But the June 30 deadline was for DOJ to submit the report to Sessions, not for it to publish the document.

The oddly named Cyber-Digital Task Force was supposed to examine ways in which the Justice Department can better coordinate its law enforcement and digital defense work, which occurs through agencies like the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency and components like the Criminal Division, the National Security Division and local U.S. attorney's offices. In a statement in February, Session said he was expecting recommendations about "the most effective

ways" for DOJ to "confront these threats and keep the American people safe." His creation of the task force came several months after senators scolded him for not doing enough to combat election meddling, although that work falls primarily to the Department of Homeland Security.

HAPPY TUESDAY and welcome to Morning Cybersecurity! Well, crap, your MC host is doomed to an early death. Send your thoughts, feedback and especially tips to [tstarks@politico.com](mailto:tstarks@politico.com), and be sure to follow [@POLITICOPro](#) and [@MorningCybersec](#). Full team info below.

Join POLITICO at 8:15 a.m. on July 11 at Washington Court Hotel for a dynamic conversation on the role of government and its implications for AI growth in national public safety, privacy and civil rights. RSVP [here](#).

OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS — One of the oldest hacking tactics, phishing, is still showing signs of evolving, Brianna reported. For instance, Barracuda Networks "cataloged various phishing schemes in which hackers imitated Netflix's login landing pages and misspelled Netflix as 'Netfliix' to trick email readers into clicking infectious links containing malware." The British counterfraud agency, meanwhile, found a scheme capitalizing on the WannaCry outbreak that "attempts to fool users into thinking their computers are infected with the ransomware and demands Bitcoin payments to protect their files." The silver lining is that fewer phishing emails are making it into users' inboxes, according to Trustwave. Pros can read the full story [here](#).

NEW TECH, OLD FUEL — The Department of Energy is investing part of a \$9 million grant in four projects aimed at enhancing cybersecurity infrastructure, DOE announced Monday. The projects are centered around building sensors and controls technology to enhance the operations, reliability and economic performance of fossil power systems. All four projects would get approximately \$312,000 in federal funds. The Electric Power Research Institute will use its grant to improve threat detection. General Electric plans to use its share of the money to reduce cybersecurity risks in industrial control systems. Siemens plans to use the money to develop joint cyber-physical security solutions within fossil fuel power plants. Southern Company will attempt to create an efficient and cost effective system that identifies, predicts and responds to operational problems using existing plant data. These cybersecurity efforts come from the DOE's larger initiative to develop technologies that enhance fossil energy power systems.

PROTECTING CONSUMER DATA COLLECTION — A government watchdog announced Monday that it found fault with the cybersecurity protections of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau system that collects, monitors and responds to complaints, even though overall the safeguards tested were effective. "However, stronger identity and access management controls can ensure that the security control

environment for Mosaic remains effective,” the inspector general for the CFPB and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System found. “Our report includes one recommendation and several matters for management’s consideration in the areas of audit and accountability, contingency planning, and configuration management.” The IG didn’t make the full report public. The bureau recently lifted a six-month hold on data collection, a hold that proved controversial.

ALL FOR NOTHING? MAYBE? — At least one of the USB fans given to journalists covering President Donald Trump’s recent meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is malware-free, according to a security researcher at the University of Cambridge. Sergei Skorobogatov, a senior research associate at the university’s Computer Laboratory, took apart the fan, which journalists could pick up in the media filing center in Singapore on June 12. The device Skorobogatov tested “does not have any computer functionality on [its] USB interface” and “can only be used for driving the motor” for the fan, he wrote in his paper. Cybersecurity experts joked about the possibility of North Korea using the fans to hack journalists covering the summit — a completely plausible notion given how voraciously nation-state hacking groups target participants in high-stakes diplomatic summits. Skorobogatov’s findings suggest that the fans may have been clean after all, though as the Cato Institute’s Julian Sanchez pointed out, a smart intelligence agency wouldn’t infect all of the fans, so one safe device doesn’t prove anything about the broader collection.

(NEXT) CHINESE TELECOM ON U.S. LIST — Another Chinese telecom company on Monday ran into a brick wall from U.S. policymakers. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration recommended that the FCC prevent China Mobile from entering the U.S. market. “After significant engagement with China Mobile, concerns about increased risks to U.S. law enforcement and national security interests were unable to be resolved,” said David J. Redl, administrator of the NTIA. In April, Commerce initiated a ban against ZTE, only for Trump to take steps to reverse it and seek to save the company, despite worries from intelligence officials and lawmakers about ZTE’s cyber and other security risks.

126 DAYS AWAY — Unease that the federal government hasn’t done enough to protect the upcoming midterm elections just keeps growing. On Monday, the Transatlantic Commission on Election Integrity declared neither the U.S. nor Europe is adequately prepared to fend off outside meddling. “The lack of cohesion among U.S. elected officials in addressing this problem is especially unfortunate given the ample means the U.S. government has to confront this threat head on,” according to the bipartisan group, which is co-chaired by former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. Meanwhile, Florida’s senators urged their state’s

election officials to accept security aid from DHS. The department “will follow your lead and meet your needs with a tailored set of options,” Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio wrote. “We encourage you in the strongest terms to take advantage of those resources, and to let us know about your experience with DHS and FBI.”

TWEET OF THE DAY — “E-N-C-R-Y-P-T / make sure that you Signal me.”

#### PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

— Steve Scarince, who served more than 20 years in the U.S. Secret Service, was appointed associate managing director of Kroll’s cyber risk practice in Los Angeles.

#### QUICK BYTES

— “Government officials are looking to the federal regulatory process as one possible tool to compel other nations to practice norms of good behavior in cyberspace and to punish nations that step out of bounds, a State Department official told Nextgov.”

— Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr said his panel is in weekly contact with the author of the infamous Trump dossier. BuzzFeed

— The origins of the new federal chief information security officer handbook. Federal News Radio

— 18F, the General Services Administration’s digital services agency, has a new executive director. FCW

— “Facebook Faces Broadened Federal Investigations Over Data and Privacy” The New York Times

— Facebook bug temporarily unblocked people from 800,000+ block lists. TechCrunch

— China is trying to steal Taiwan’s tech secrets. The Wall Street Journal

— The Financial Stability Board is promoting a “cyber lexicon.” ABA Banking Journal

— IBM won a nearly \$40 million cybersecurity contract from the U.K.’s National Health Service. Digital Health

— The company that exposed the Ticketmaster UK breach, Monzo, got breached. Finextra

— But Monzo had let Ticketmaster know about it months ago. Quartz

— A debuting app helps alert friends about their safety after a date. Wired

— The Tor Project examines Egypt’s internet censorship.

That’s all for today. I do like the occasional dirty chai, though.

Stay in touch with the whole team: Mike Farrell (mfarrell@politico.com, @mikebfarrell); Eric Geller (egeller@politico.com, @ericgeller); Martin Matishak (mmatishak@politico.com, @martinmatishak) and Tim Starks (tstarks@politico.com, @timstarks).

## The Cybersecurity 202: Big Tech Is Going After California's New Privacy Law

By Derek Hawkins

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

Big tech is going after California's new privacy law in an attempt to weaken it before it takes effect in 2020.

Tech industry lobbyists representing giants like Google, Uber, Amazon and Facebook are pushing for changes to the recently passed California Consumer Privacy Act, which contains the country's strongest data privacy protections and could significantly change the way they do business. The tech giants are worried that the new law could hamper their operations and herald tougher regulation on the national level in the wake of controversy over how these companies share users' data.

Industry groups lobbying for changes haven't said specifically what they want to see modified, but they're making clear they intend to play a major role in negotiations over the coming months. They include the Internet Association – which represents Google, Amazon and other tech giants, as well as TechNet and the Interactive Advertising Bureau. (Amazon CEO Jeffrey P. Bezos owns The Washington Post).

"It is going to take time to fully understand the implications of this bill for California's consumers and economy," said Robert Callahan, vice president of state government affairs for the Internet Association. "The bill was written in a hurried and ill-considered process, and received very little input from those affected by the legislation. Changes will be necessary as businesses of all types look at implementation."

The law, signed by the governor late last week, requires tech companies to disclose the type of data they collect on customers and reveal the advertisers and other third parties they share it with. It also gives users the ability to opt out of data collection and empowers the state attorney general to punish companies that don't protect user information.

Legislators introduced, debated and passed the law in the span of less than a week to head off a ballot initiative that contained even tougher privacy protections, as my colleague Tony Romm has reported. The initiative's main backer agreed to withdraw his proposal if lawmakers passed a compromise bill before a June 28 deadline to get the measure on California's November ballot.

Google, Uber and other giants fought to kill Alastair Mactaggart's initiative, which drew more than double the signatures needed to be put to a vote, Tony reported. But they ultimately came to accept the compromise legislation — likely because it's easier to change than a ballot initiative, according to Ashkan Soltani, an independent researcher and technologist who helped craft the measure .

"Part of the calculation by industry was to try to move Mr. Mactaggart off the table to bring this back into a standard legislative lobbying process," Soltani told me.

"Moving forward, I think we will make clarifications, but the goals of the bill won't change," State Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D), who co-authored the legislation, said in an emailed statement. "The value of keeping these discussions in the Legislature is that as technology evolves, we will be able to have thoughtful conversations about how to balance innovation with the ability of consumers to control their private information, know if it's being sold, and delete it if necessary."

The law's January 2020 implementation date gives critics ample opportunity to amend it.

Google, in comments to the Hill newspaper, said that "we look forward to improvements to address the many unintended consequences of the law." The Interactive Advertising Bureau, a digital advertising trade group whose members include Facebook and Microsoft, said it too was weighing its options. "This is the broadest, [most] sweeping piece of privacy legislation in the nation now, without question, so we are doing our due diligence as to what it means," Brad Weltman, the organization's vice president of public policy, told the Wall Street Journal.

The law also has detractors on the consumer side. The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California said the law "fails to provide the privacy protections the public has demanded and deserved" in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal and other high-profile cases of data misuse. "This measure was hastily drafted and needs to be fixed," said Nicole Ozer, the group's technology and civil liberties director.

Despite those criticisms, the measure is already being held up as a bellwether for privacy initiative in other states and nationally. Soltani said that's important for Big Tech to keep in mind as they work to influence the final version. "If the measure is weakened too substantially," he said, "the industry risks having an even worse intervention than what's on the table now."

Programming note: We'll be off tomorrow celebrating July 4th. We hope you are too! See you back in your inbox on Thursday.

PINGED, PATCHED, PWNED

PINGED: The federal investigation into Facebook and Cambridge Analytica is expanding. "Representatives for the FBI, the SEC and the Federal Trade Commission have joined the Department of Justice in its inquiries about the two companies and the sharing of personal information of 71 million Americans, suggesting the wide-ranging nature of the investigation, said five people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a probe that remains incomplete," The Washington Post's Craig Timberg, Elizabeth Dwoskin, Matt Zapotosky and Devlin Barrett report. The social network said it is cooperating with investigators, The Post reported.

People familiar with the probe said investigators are examining the social network's actions in 2015 when it found out that Cambridge Analytica had used information harvested from its users to assemble profiles of voters, my colleagues report. "The questioning from federal investigators centers on what Facebook knew three years ago and why the company didn't reveal it at the time to its users or investors, as well as any discrepancies in more recent accounts, among other issues, according to these people. The Capitol Hill testimony of Facebook officials, including Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg, also is being scrutinized as part of the probe, said people familiar with the federal inquiries ...

Many details about the federal probe remain unknown, including whether investigators are considering criminal charges or civil penalties for the companies involved," Timberg, Dwoskin, Zapotosky and Barrett write. "But investigators seem particularly focused on what data Facebook allowed to be collected from its platform and under what conditions, as well as what Facebook told the public at the time of the data sharing and during recent Congressional hearings, said these people."

**PATCHED:** Misinformation is turning deadly in India. "More than a dozen people have been killed across India since May in violence fueled mainly by messages on the WhatsApp service," The Post's Annie Gowen reports. Violence has erupted following fake allegations on the app about child trafficking or organ harvesting, according to Gowen. The size of India's population combined with the fact that new users, especially in rural areas, may be unfamiliar with smartphones underscore the acuteness of the problem, my colleague writes.

"As India's government weighs what to do, local authorities have been left to tackle fake news as best they can, issuing warnings and employing low-tech methods such as hiring street performers and 'rumor busters' to visit villages to spread public awareness," Gowen reports. "One such 'rumor buster' was killed by a mob Thursday in the eastern state of Tripura."

Nikhil Pahwa, a technology expert, told Gowen that law enforcement authorities in India — a country with more than 200 million WhatsApp users — can't fix this problem alone and the messaging company should do more to tackle the problem. "The police are always going to be at a loss because the scale of WhatsApp usage is going to be difficult to contend with and they don't have the manpower," Pahwa told my colleague. "The platform itself needs to evolve."

**PWNED:** Developers of applications that pair with gmail are probably scanning or maybe even reading your emails, The Wall Street Journal's Douglas MacMillan reports. Data from users' emails represents a wealth of personal and detailed information about consumers that can be used for marketing purposes, according to MacMillan. Thede Loder, former chief technology officer at eDataSource Inc., which

assists marketers with email campaigns, told the Journal that it is "common practice" for emailed-based service companies to allow their staff to read people's emails."Data-mining companies commonly use free apps and services to hook users into giving up access to their inboxes without clearly stating what data they collect and what they are doing with it, according to current and former employees of these companies," MacMillan writes.

Developers of external apps say that Google, whose Gmail platform is the most widespread email service in the world, does not strictly enforce its own guidelines, according to the Journal. "Google's developer agreement prohibits exposing a user's private data to anyone else 'without explicit opt-in consent from that user,'" MacMillan reports. "Its rules also bar app developers from making permanent copies of user data and storing them in a database."

— More cybersecurity news:

#### PUBLIC KEY

— Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) on Monday recommended that election officials in Florida collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen election security across the state and highlighted the risk of foreign interference ahead of the midterm primaries and general elections. Rubio and Nelson wrote in a letter that the department provides "a wide range of services to state and local officials that will support your efforts to make your systems secure."

"DHS will follow your lead and meet your needs with a tailored set of options," Rubio and Nelson wrote. "We encourage you in the strongest terms to take advantage of those resources, and to let us know about your experience with DHS and FBI."

— The National Telecommunications and Information Administration cited concerns about national security when it advised on Monday against granting a U.S. license to the company China Mobile, The Post's David J. Lynch reports. "Granting the authorization poses an unacceptable risk to U.S. national security and law enforcement," the NTIA said, as quoted by Lynch. "...This assessment rests in large part on China's record of intelligence activities and economic espionage targeting the United States, along with China Mobile's size and technical and financial resources."

— The California Supreme Court ruled Monday that Yelp.com has no obligation to discard comments that a judge in a lower court had said amounted to defamation, the Associated Press's Sudhin Thanawala writes. "In a 4-3 opinion, justices agreed, saying removal orders such as the one attorney Dawn Hassell obtained against Yelp 'could interfere with and undermine the viability of an online platform,'" Thanawala reports. "The decision overturned a lower court ruling that Yelp had said could lead to the removal of negative reviews from the popular website."

— More cybersecurity news from the public sector:

## PRIVATE KEY

— Did you block someone on Facebook or Facebook Messenger recently, only to find them showing up again? Facebook says there's an explanation. The social network on Monday announced that a bug between May 29 and June 5 on Facebook and Facebook Messenger resulted in some users being "unblocked." Erin Egan, the company's chief privacy officer, said in a statement that "while someone who was unblocked could not see content shared with friends, they could have seen things posted to a wider audience." Egan also said the bug extended to more than 800,000 Facebook users and "83% of people affected by the bug had only one person they had blocked temporarily unblocked." Facebook said it has solved the issue and will notify users whose accounts were caught in the glitch.

## SECURITY FAILS

### THE NEW WILD WEST

— Some NGOs and United Nations agencies worry about some security provisions of a law in Poland that aims to codify an international climate conference scheduled for December in Katowice, the Intercept's Kate Aronoff reports. "While the vast majority of the law does little more than establish rules on governing how to host and finance the conference, one statute allows Polish authorities to 'collect, obtain, gather, verify, process and use information, including personal data about persons posing a threat to public safety and order, including outside the borders of the Republic of Poland' if there is a 'justified assumption' they will be staying in Poland," Aronoff writes.

Authorities have defended the security measures contained in the legislation, according to the Intercept. "The primary responsibility of the country hosting the COP24 Summit is to ensure the safety of its participants," a representative from the office of the Polish environment minister told Aronoff in a statement. "Due to the importance and nature of the meeting, as well as the specific terrorist threat associated with it, it is a major challenge for the services dealing with protecting the security of the state and public order, which the Polish Police is ready to face."

— More cybersecurity news from abroad:

The Israeli government wants to forge a new type of relationship with the private sector to combat cyber threats. The means by which it will do so might prove controversial.

Council on Foreign Relations

## Ahead Of Midterms, States Scrambling To Fend Off Cyberattacks

By Warren Richey

[Christian Science Monitor](#), July 3, 2018

WASHINGTON

With the 2018 midterm elections fast approaching, security experts are warning that the nation's election

infrastructure will once again come under assault by hackers seeking to undermine American democracy.

But here's an underappreciated fact: We're already under attack.

"We average 100,000 scans on our [computer] systems a day," Missouri's secretary of state, Jay Ashcroft, told a recent Senate panel examining election security. He was referring to unauthorized probing of the networks.

Mr. Ashcroft and other state election officials were asked how often they detect attempts specifically to break into voter-registration and other election-related systems.

"Every day," responded Vermont's secretary of state, Jim Condos. "We probably receive several thousand scans per day."

Steve Simon, Minnesota's secretary of state, compared the frequent attempted cyber-intrusions he sees to a car thief casing a parking lot. "[The car thief] goes there a day or two in a row, and takes out binoculars and observes traffic patterns, and he tries to figure out, is there a way in?" Mr. Simon told the senators.

"There are a lot of people casing a lot of parking lots," he said.

Last year, US intelligence and election-security experts issued grim warnings that alleged Russia-backed meddling during the 2016 election was merely a "wake-up call."

Now, four months from the 2018 midterm elections, it's unclear if the US is ready for another round of election-related attacks in the cyber-shadows.

"There is a vast improvement over where we were in 2016," says Lawrence Norden, an election expert at the Brennan Center for Justice in New York. "There has been so much more discussion and training done over the last year and a half than there ever was around cybersecurity."

But, he adds, it is not nearly enough.

In March, Congress passed an election-security measure to provide a one-time grant of \$380 million to state officials to upgrade and harden their election infrastructure.

While the money is welcome, analysts say it is only a starting point to address the full spectrum of vulnerabilities exposed during the 2016 election season.

"This is a national security issue," Norden says. "In that context, \$380 million is almost nothing. That is what we spend on a single Air Force jet in some cases." A paper record

For example, in 2016, 14 states were using voting machines incapable of producing a voter-verified paper record. Many of those states want to upgrade to a more secure voting system that would use paper ballots that can be hand-counted if there is a suspected breach or failure of tabulation software. But since the turmoil of 2016, only one of those states, Virginia, has made the transition to a more secure voting system.

Part of the reason for the delay is cost. It can cost tens of millions of dollars to outfit an entire state with new voting machines. Estimates are that Pennsylvania, a key swing state, may have to spend up to \$60 million to replace its voting machines. Under the new federal grant, Pennsylvania is set to receive \$13.5 million.

Officials in New Jersey and Georgia are actively exploring ways to buy new voting machines that support paper ballots. But they haven't done so yet.

"It is disappointing that, given that there is pretty much uniform agreement among security experts that these systems need to be replaced, that we couldn't manage to do it before the 2018 election," Norden says.

Moreover, he and others are quick to point out that paper ballots alone won't be enough to protect US elections.

Michigan has used voter-verifiable paper ballots with its voting machines since 2004. But last year, the state spent \$40 million to purchase the newest version of its voting machines, with upgraded software and more robust security features. The upgrade involved replacing 5,000 machines in 4,300 voting precincts state-wide, according to state officials.

"We want to stay two steps ahead of the bad guys," says Fred Woodhams, a spokesperson in the Michigan secretary of state's office. "We are pleased about where we are, but we still have more work to do."

Mr. Woodhams says Michigan was allocated \$10.7 million of the \$380 million in federal election security funds earlier this year. The state plans to use much of that money to hire a cybersecurity contractor to conduct a comprehensive review of the state's election system.

"They will be looking at the whole system globally and at the local level as well," he says. "Because there are a lot of systems that interface with each other, we wanted to see how everything works together, and where the vulnerabilities are."

As in many states, Michigan's election system is decentralized. Elections are conducted at the local level by 83 county clerks and 1,520 city and township clerks. While decentralization makes it harder for a hacker to disrupt or swing an election, it also makes it harder to provide a uniform defense against cyberthreats.

The same issue arises in Minnesota, where elections are run at the county level, but only nine of the state's 87 counties are large enough to support a full-time, year-round clerk, according to Minnesota officials.

Security experts note that many election offices across the country, particularly in rural areas, do not have a single information technology specialist on staff, let alone someone trained in the latest cybersecurity threats and counter-techniques.

Following the 2016 election, many state and local election officials complained that the national government failed to provide them with real-time warnings about ongoing

efforts to hack into their systems. In some cases, local officials didn't learn of the attacks until 10 months later.

Since then, the Department of Homeland Security has set up an organization called the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center. If state officials agree to participate, they can install monitors on their election networks to track and identify any potential threats. The center would then share recovered information and provide a warning system for other states. Risk-limiting audits

Given the complexity of identifying and addressing election vulnerabilities, many election specialists advocate the use of audit techniques to help verify election results and identify hacking attempts.

Estimates are that 32 states have regulations or procedures for post-election audits. But many of these audits aren't structured to detect a tabulation software flaw, or aren't rigorous enough to uncover a deliberate hack, experts say.

The most robust audit available uses statistics to examine a random sample of paper ballots to verify the computer-driven tabulation of votes. Because it relies on a hand-count of a relatively small number of ballots (at least initially), these so-called risk-limiting audits provide a reliable way to double-check computerized election results.

The science has been proven and the cost is not substantial. But in 2018, Colorado will be the only state in the country using this technique to verify its elections.

"There is pretty much universal agreement that this is an important security measure to detect and perhaps recover from attacks on electronic voting systems," Norden says. But he acknowledges: "There has been very little progress made on that front."

Rhode Island is set to conduct risk-limiting audits starting in 2020. Pilot programs have been undertaken in Indiana and Orange County, Calif.

For the first time in 2018, Michigan will be conducting an audit of election results, by physically counting paper ballots in randomly selected precincts in each county.

"This is an avenue that might give assurance to people who are concerned about cybersecurity issues," Woodhams says. "Every voter in Michigan will be using a paper ballot, so at the end of the day, even if everything goes wrong, we still have a paper ballot to take out and look at by hand if we have to."

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But while Michigan is ahead of many states, Woodhams acknowledges that protecting an election from outside interference will be an ongoing process.

"Cybersecurity isn't something where you can declare victory and move on," he says. "It is something you work on every day."

## Israel Says Hamas Tried To Infiltrate Its Military Using Smartphone Dating, Sports Apps

By Ruth Eglash

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

TEL AVIV — The Israeli army said Tuesday that archenemy Hamas, the militant Palestinian Islamist group that rules the Gaza Strip, has been attempting to infiltrate the military using dating and sports apps on smartphones.

A senior army official in Israel's intelligence directorate told journalists that the army had detected at least three malicious phone applications — including dating apps named Wink Chat and Glance Love — that contained malware designed to infiltrate networks and steal data.

The apps — including one called Golden Cup, which offers real-time information on the soccer World Cup — had been available in the Google Play store for Android phones.

The army official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity in keeping with military protocol, said Hamas operatives posing online as young, attractive and, in most cases, female Israelis attempted to lure young Israeli recruits via Facebook and WhatsApp to download the apps.

Once embedded in a person's phone, the malware in the apps can read text messages, view visual content and other documentation stored on the device, as well as allow outside sources to listen in on conversations and take photographs remotely.

"Hamas is understanding how to operate in a cyber era," the official said. "Technically, they are not that smart, but they have a very good understanding of what Israeli youths are interested in, what they talk about, and their level of Hebrew is excellent."

The army said the Wink Chat, Glance Love and Golden Cup apps, which were removed from Google's app store in the past few months, were downloaded by 400 to 500 people, though not all of them were soldiers.

While it could not give exact numbers on how many soldiers were allegedly approached or duped into conversation with Hamas's cyberoperatives, the army said hundreds of recruits reported being approached through their Facebook accounts. About 2 percent of those agreed to download the apps. It is possible that more people will come forward now that the information about the purported cyberthreat has been made public.

A Hamas official declined to comment on the allegations.

Israel has fought three wars with Hamas, which also operates from the West Bank and abroad, since the group took over the Gaza Strip in 2007. Hamas, which is viewed as a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States, has used a variety of means to infiltrate Israel, including

underground tunnels and, more recently, incendiary kites and balloons.

Tensions between Israel and Hamas have flared recently as residents of Gaza hold weekly protests that often turn lethal along the border with Israel, demanding the return of land that Palestinians lost when Israel was created and highlighting the humanitarian crisis facing the enclave. Israel and Egypt have imposed a land, air and sea blockade of Gaza since Hamas took over the territory.

This is the second time that Hamas allegedly has attempted to infiltrate the Israeli military in this way. In January 2017, the army said it had detected fake Facebook accounts used by Hamas militants to connect with young Israeli recruits in an attempt to gain access to sensitive army information.

It reported then that soldiers, mostly from combat units, were enticed into chatting with people on the social media network who they believed were young, attractive women in Israel and abroad. The soldiers were then duped into downloading chat applications to their cellphones.

After that purported infiltration, the army changed its rules on using social media and smartphones. It also undertook a vigorous program to increase awareness among troops of cybersecurity concerns. The army periodically tests its troops by sending out messages from fake social media accounts to see whether they are susceptible to entrapment.

Briefing the news media Tuesday, the Israeli official said the latest attack was more streamlined than in 2017. This time, in addition to connecting with soldiers on Facebook, he said, operatives used WhatsApp, strengthening their fake identities with Israeli phone numbers. He would not say whether those behind the alleged infiltration were based in Gaza, the West Bank or abroad.

The official said the Israeli army intelligence unit became aware of the malicious dating apps in January and has been working to prevent the infiltration in an operation called Broken Heart, either a reference to those who might face heartbreak when they realize the people they have been conversing with are really enemy operatives or to when Hamas realizes that Israel has uncovered the alleged operation.

Hazem Balousha in Gaza contributed to this report.

## Pentagon Wants 'Baked-In' Security From Vendors

[MeriTalk](#), July 3, 2018

With cybersecurity threats on the rise, most recently seen in a Chinese hack of a Navy contractor, the Department of Defense is taking new steps to ensure security, in part by putting more of the onus on contractors.

The Pentagon wants to bake security into its acquisition process, adding more security requirements to traditional

contracting benchmarks like cost and completion schedules, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Kari Bingen told Congress on June 21. "We must establish security as a fourth pillar in defense acquisition and also create incentives for industry to embrace security, not as a cost burden, but as a major factor in their competitiveness for U.S. government business," Bingen said in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee.

Bingen and other DoD officials cited China's consistent efforts to steal U.S. military technology, comparing it to physical encroachments such as China's build-out of artificial islands in the South China Sea, which has become a major point of contention between Washington and Beijing. "It circumvents the autonomy of nations in a departure from a rules-based global order," Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Michael Griffin told lawmakers, as reported by Defense News. "It is adversarial behavior and its perpetrator must be treated as such."

Most recently, hackers tied to the Chinese government infiltrated an unnamed contractor working with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and made off with 614 gigabytes of data on a submarine-based supersonic anti-ship missile that could be in use by 2020, according to the Washington Post, which reported on the hack June 8.

That's just the latest incident in what U.S. officials say is a long-running trend of Chinese espionage, which has included the theft of a lot of highly sensitive defense-related intellectual property, typically via hacks of contractors. China's industrial espionage reportedly led to production of new stealth fighters that closely resemble the F-22 and F-35 fighter jets being produced for the U.S. military by Lockheed Martin. A Chinese citizen living in Canada pleaded guilty in 2016 to leading a group that stole secrets from Boeing and Lockheed (including information on the F-22 and F-35) for China.

Although the testimony focused on China, which is widely seen as the biggest threat to military intellectual property, it's far from alone in targeting the U.S. military and industry. The Trump administration earlier this year indicted members of an Iranian hacker network for a large-scale campaign against U.S. government agencies, companies, and universities. North Korea has conducted extensive cyber operations, including the theft of 235 gigabytes of U.S. and South Korean military plans. And Russia, of course, operates across the hacking landscape conducting cyber attacks against the United States and its allies, from efforts to compromise military networks to posing as ISIS hackers to threaten military wives. The U.S. Treasury this month sanctioned five Russian companies and three individuals for working with Russia's military and intelligence agencies on attacks targeting the United States.

Among the steps the Pentagon is taking, officials told the committee, is a new program called "Deliver

Uncompromised," intended to raise security's profile among prospective vendors. DoD would work with industry on tighter security, even on a case-by-case basis, bringing in DoD's own intelligence work and analysis to better understand the potential threats and keep them out of the supply chain.

Bingen and other officials acknowledged that adding security requirements to the acquisition process would be a two-way street, involving greater input from DoD as well as a willingness by industry to adapt to the new procedures.

## **China's Biggest Cellphone Company Censors Content — Even In The United States**

By Isaac Stone Fish

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

On Monday, the U.S. Department of Commerce recommended the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) deny a license to China Mobile, the state-run company that is the world's largest phone network by subscribers. (It reaches more people than Verizon and AT&T combined.) The Commerce Department suggested the move because of the national security risk China Mobile poses. Indeed, because China Mobile is an arm of the Chinese state, there are legitimate concerns that Beijing could use it to gather data on American citizens. There is, however, a previously unreported concern with China Mobile that adds to worries about the company's suitability in the United States.

According to several interviews with frequent Chinese travelers to the United States, those with China Mobile as their carrier are often unable to access American websites and apps that are banned in China. A Chinese journalist who regularly travels to the United States for work, and who asked to speak anonymously, said she couldn't access Facebook or the New York Times in the United States with her China Mobile number. Even Google Maps is banned, leading to some frustrating travel experiences. When she was visiting a friend in Brooklyn, the Chinese journalist said, "it took me a long time to find her place because my VPN failed me and I couldn't use Google Maps." She was referring to a Virtual Private Network, a method that some Chinese use to circumvent the Chinese censorship apparatus.

The experience of using China Mobile roaming in the United States "is exactly the same as when you surf on the Internet at home," said May Sun, a 34-year-old analyst living in Shanghai. "You still don't have access to what is blocked by the Great Firewall." On its official website, China Mobile offers a North America international roaming plan but doesn't say whether the plan allows users to access websites such as Facebook and YouTube. (China Mobile didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.)

China seeks to become a "cyber superpower." According to Sam Sacks, an expert on China's technology, Beijing wants to "write the rules for global cyber governance."

Beijing's cyber-governance plans, Sacks writes, are to address cybersecurity challenges, support domestic technologies and, ominously, "expand Beijing's power to surveil and control the dissemination of economic, social, and political information online."

Residents of mainland China have long been subject to a sophisticated and claustrophobic censorship regime: In its most recent Freedom on the Net report, the nonprofit Freedom House ranked China the world's worst abuser of Internet freedom for the third year in a row. More recently, Chinese citizens in the United States — along with Americans — now face increased censorship, or the pressure to self-censor, as a result of China's rise. According to reporting I've done over the past six months for a book I'm writing on Chinese influence in the United States, self-censorship about China at American universities is worryingly common. And Beijing increasingly polices the politics of American brands: In January, Beijing forced the American hotel chain Marriott to issue an abject apology after an employee "liked" a social media post about the independence of the Tibetan region of China.

China Mobile started conducting censorship in the United States roughly four to five years ago, according to an estimate by Sun. It is unclear how many people use China Mobile in the United States, or how many of them are U.S. citizens. About 3 million Chinese tourists visit annually, however, and it's safe to assume a majority use China Mobile — leading to censorship complaints similar to those I often heard while living in China. "I still have to use a VPN to get onto" Instagram in the United States, one Chinese, who goes by missoainoiax, posted from Minnesota. "China Mobile, you're killing me."

Beyond VPN, China Mobile users can access the unfettered Internet via a WiFi hotspot. Users can also switch SIM cards when they come to the United States, but China Mobile doesn't recommend it. Doing so, according to China Mobile's official account on the popular WeChat messaging platform, is like "losing oneself." The danger includes "totally missing a call or a message" from friends, family, colleagues or a bank, China Mobile says.

Chinese influence in the United States is quite different from Russia's — it's far more difficult to quantify, more sophisticated and more pernicious. The Chinese threat is that Americans will slowly grow accustomed to living in China's world, where censorship and constraints on freedom of expression are acceptable norms.

Thirty-five-year-old Zheng Zhihui, who works in a private investment group in the Chinese city of Nanjing, visited New York in May. Although she grumbled about not being able to access Google, the phone censorship barely bothered her. "As students in school, freedom and democracy used to mean a lot to us," she said. But she has

grown accustomed to it. "The longer I work, the number I become."

Owen Guo and Rebecca Zhang contributed research.

## **The US Won't Let China Mobile Operate In The Country, Citing Risk To National Security**

By Shannon Liao

[The Verge](#), July 3, 2018

The US government has declared another major Chinese telecom company a possible "risk to national security": China Mobile. Yesterday, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a statement advising the Federal Communications Commission not to allow China Mobile, which is the world's third biggest carrier after AT&T and Verizon, to operate in the United States.

China Mobile first applied to the FCC for permission to provide US telecom services in 2011 and its application has been pending ever since. In 2013, China Mobile's counsel wrote a letter to the FCC, requesting permission, stating "the extreme delay in granting the application is causing significant and unwarranted harm to China Mobile USA's business operations."

China Mobile could be used for "cyber intrusions and attacks"

In the past few months, the US government has stepped up its measures against Chinese tech companies, most notably Huawei and ZTE. The ongoing clashes between the two countries include the White House pressuring major carriers to back out of deals to carry Huawei devices in the US and banning US exports to ZTE. Today, the US Commerce Department temporarily lifted part of the ban for ZTE until August 1st, and it might be fully lifted afterward if ZTE is in compliance with the government's requirements.

The NTIA appears the most concerned that China Mobile is mostly owned (74 percent at the time it applied in 2011) by the Chinese government. Any company where a foreign government has more than a 10 percent stake must be scrutinized, according to NTIA.

The company could "create irreparable damage to US national security"

"China Mobile is vulnerable to exploitation, influence, and control by the Chinese government," the filing states, adding, "Authorization poses an unacceptable risk to US national security and law enforcement and the risk can be expected to increase over time." The government points to China's "record of intelligence activities and economic espionage targeting the United States" and China Mobile's huge size and considerable resources. It envisions that the telecom company could become a pawn used for "activities involving cyber intrusions and attacks."

Even if China Mobile uses secure hardware, which it has assured the US government that it does, “the risk China Mobile would pose as operator of that equipment” would effectively nullify the hardware’s security, the filing claims. US authorities also judged that if they were to uncover security breaches from the Chinese government, the harm caused would be too much to undo. Giving away national security or law enforcement requests or accessing customer data without permission could “create irreparable damage to US national security.”

We’ve reached out to the US government and China Mobile for comment.

## **U.S. Allows ZTE To Resume Some Business Activity Temporarily**

By Jenny Leonard

[Bloomberg News](#), July 3, 2018

The Trump administration is letting ZTE Corp. resume some business activities while the U.S. weighs ending a seven-year ban on the Chinese telecommunications company, according to a document obtained by Bloomberg News.

The ZTE authorization by the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security is valid from July 2 until Aug. 1. While it wasn’t immediately clear when a permanent order will follow, a person familiar with the matter said ZTE is expected to be in compliance with U.S. demands by Aug. 1.

ZTE’s stock surged its 10 percent daily limit in Shenzhen on Tuesday, the biggest jump in more than a year. Its shares in Hong Kong rose 7.6 percent.

The authorization permits China’s No. 2 maker of telecoms gear to support existing networks or equipment under contracts signed on or before April 15, when the U.S. blocked companies from selling components to ZTE for violating sanctions against Iran and North Korea. The ban had forced ZTE to announce it was shutting down.

President Donald Trump reversed course in May, saying he was reconsidering penalties on ZTE as personal favor to Chinese President Xi Jinping. Later that month, the Trump administration announced it would allow the company to stay in business after paying a \$1.3 billion fine, changing its management and providing “high-level security guarantees.”

The about-face sparked concerns of ZTE being used as a bargaining chip in U.S.-China trade negotiations to avert a tariffs dispute. Those talks have stalled and the U.S. is set to impose tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods Friday, and another \$16 billion may follow. China has said it will retaliate dollar-for-dollar on U.S. imports.

ZTE took a major step forward in meeting the White House’s conditions by sacking its entire board and appointing a new chairman last week. A U.S. Commerce official said on

June 22 that ZTE was close to clearing the final hurdle, by paying \$400 million in escrow.

ZTE’s new management now faces the challenge of rebuilding trust with phone companies and corporate customers. The company is said to be facing at least \$3 billion in total losses from the months-long moratorium, which cut off the flow of chips and other components it needed to make its networking gear and smartphones.

In Washington, a bipartisan group of lawmakers remains concerned about ZTE’s threat to U.S. national security and is pushing for legislation aimed at restoring harsher penalties. Lawmakers are set to resume negotiations on legislation that will try to balance concerns that ZTE presents a security risk with efforts to get the company back into business.

This week’s authorization lets ZTE give support, including software updates, for ZTE phone models that were available to the public on or before April 15, and it allows parties to make and receive payments for permissible ZTE transactions. The order also authorizes “the disclosure to ZTE of information regarding security vulnerabilities in items owned, possessed or controlled by ZTE” to protect communication networks and equipment, it said.

## **US To Allow ZTE To Resume Some Operations Temporarily**

By Ali Breland

[The Hill](#), July 3, 2018

The Trump administration will allow Chinese phone maker ZTE to temporarily resume some of its business operations as the U.S. government considers reneging its seven-year ban on the manufacturer doing business with American companies.

The new authorization from the Commerce Department will go from July 2 to Aug. 1, according to a document obtained by Bloomberg. The company told the outlet that it will be in compliance with U.S. demands by the end of this period.

President Trump has said he is working to ease the penalties on ZTE that the Commerce Department imposed on the company for violating sanctions with Iran.

His move to do this has sparked heavy backlash from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Lawmakers last month passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with amendments including provisions aimed at reversing Trump’s attempts to ease the penalties.

Lawmakers in favor of the harsh penalties argue that ZTE is a national security threat because of its close relations to the Chinese government. They believe the company can provide a back door into American communications.

Lawmakers have already taken steps to bar the government from taking federal contracts with ZTE and other

Chinese phone makers. The Pentagon has also banned such companies from selling their products on U.S. military bases.

## **Trump Administration Lets ZTE Partially Operate Until August**

By John Hendel

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

The Trump administration is offering another lifeline to Chinese telecom giant ZTE, authorizing it to continue limited operations in the U.S. from July 2 through August 1.

The authorization, granted in a Commerce Department document, comes as President Donald Trump looks to lift the seven-year ban on ZTE initially imposed in April. It lets ZTE conduct business involving contracts and devices offered before the ban went into effect.

The Commerce Department levied that punishment, which ZTE said would put it out of business, in response to ZTE's illegal sales to North Korea and Iran. Trump sought to assuage Chinese government concerns with a deal in June letting ZTE operate stateside if it pays a \$1 billion fine, changes its management and embeds a compliance team.

Lawmakers from both parties insist ZTE is a national security threat and merits harsher punishment. The Senate in June voted 85-10 to approve a defense bill reinstating tough penalties on ZTE. The House and Senate will meet this month to reconcile their two versions of the legislation. The House version imposes lesser restrictions.

Trump gathered Republicans for a closed-door meeting June 20 to pressure them to water down the Senate language.

Some remain unconvinced.

"So this is the great deal we have on #ZTE?" Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted June 29. "They replace board members with new directors hand-picked by the controlling shareholder who in turn is backed & controlled by the #China government. Why are we allowing them to continue to play us like this?"

## **Cryptocurrency Exchange Theft Surges In First Half Of 2018: Report**

By Gertrude Chavez-Dreyfuss

[Reuters](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **House Panel's Defense Policy Bill To Require DoD Briefing On Intell Support For Cyber Operations**

By Jane Edwards

[ExecutiveGov](#), July 3, 2018

The House Armed Services Committee's defense policy bill would direct the Defense Department to conduct a briefing

on intelligence support for cyber operations by Dec. 1, Fifth Domain reported Monday.

The provision in the measure seeks to advance efforts to resource intell analysis support at the

U.S. Cyber Command and cyber components within service branches and standardize a common doctrine for the battlefield's intell preparation for cyber-related operations.

The defense undersecretary for intelligence will work with service branches and the

Defense Intelligence Agency to deliver the briefing, according to the bill's provision.

Gus Hunt, cyber strategy lead at Accenture's federal services business, said he thinks there is no difference between cyber and other domains of warfare from an intelligence support standpoint.

"I think what you're seeing ... is that people are asking the question are we appropriately structured or resourced and focused to be as effective as we possibly can in this new realm of cyber and cyber operations," Hunt said.

"Because they're asking the question, I think the obvious answer is ... we're not structured as effectively as we possibly can be ... [but] it's really good that people are sitting there asking," he added.

## **Evo Morales' Russia-trained Cyberwarriors Work To Sway Bolivian Election**

**Critics: Cybercampaign takes a page from Putin's strategy to covertly influence campaigns**

By Martin Arostegui

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

SANTIAGO, Chile — Seeking to bolster the fortunes of their greatest champion, Bolivian coca growers have organized a social media offensive to silence critics of leftist President Evo Morales, who is seeking a fourth term in office despite the result of a 2016 referendum in which 51 percent of Bolivians rejected a proposal to drop term limits.

During his 12 years in office, Mr. Morales has legalized the cultivation of coca leaves used to make cocaine, expelled U.S. counternarcotics agents from Bolivia and showered the coca-growing valley of Chapare with major public works projects, including an international airport.

Landless peasant farmers, once targets of police persecution, have become one of the country's most powerful special interest groups. They now say they want to return a favor to the president, a onetime coca grower and union leader.

Leonardo Loza, the head of a local federation of coca growers in Chapare, late last month inaugurated a "social media bunker" to "respond to lies of the opposition."

The facility holds 17 computers and is staffed by an equal number of "cyberactivists," Mr. Loza said. He told Bolivian reporters that coca-growing federations plan to install

over 100 cybercenters to flood social networks such as Facebook and Twitter with pro-government messages.

Mr. Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, enjoys generally favorable ratings beyond his political base. He has presided over a period of high economic growth in one of Latin America's poorest countries and has tolerated an often shrill opposition.

But Mr. Morales' strong support for Venezuelan socialist President Nicolas Maduro has created speculation that Caracas' authoritarian model of government could spread to Bolivia.

Bolivians in 2016 unexpectedly rejected Mr. Morales' proposal to scrap term limits and allow him to run for another five years, but the pro-government Constitutional Court overturned the popular verdict on grounds that it was an illegal "defamatory" campaign.

The whole episode gave a black eye to the government and the image of democracy in this country of 11 million.

"Evo Morales is manipulating the rules of the game and turning his back on human rights to cling to power," Jose Miguel Vivanco, Human Rights Watch's Americas director, tweeted in the wake of the decision to allow Mr. Morales to run again.

Mr. Morales will have an opportunity to win another presidential term when Bolivians vote in general elections next year.

Officials of Mr. Morales' ruling MAS party said 80 youth activists have been trained as cyberwarriors through courses administered at the regional party headquarters in Cochabamba, the coca region's main city. MAS defines its mission as "emitting information about the administration of President Morales, defending the extension of his mandate to 2025 and responding to the opposition."

"There are characters in the opposition who circulate lies on social media, and we need to respond and debate them," said Marco Choque, MAS national youth movement chairman.

Targeted Facebook and Twitter accounts, Mr. Choque said, include those of Samuel Doria Medina, who ran against Mr. Morales in 2014; Jorge Quiroga, who fought to preserve presidential term limits at the most recent constitutional convention; and Gov. Ruben Costas of the eastern province of Santa Cruz, a bastion of the opposition.

Trolls or volunteers?

Critics call them trolls, but government representatives say the pro-Morales cyberactivists are volunteers from social organizations who work with their cellphones and exercise their constitutional right to free speech and political activism. Their only compensation, the government claims: free meals.

But an investigation by opposition lawmakers showed that the social media strategy is directed by high-level bureaucrats in a new unit of the Communications Ministry.

Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera blamed his government's narrow defeat in the 2016 referendum on a hostile social media campaign and announced plans to fight for control of cyberspace.

The Directorate of Social Networks was subsequently formed with an annual budget of \$300,000 and a multilayered bureaucracy running from network directors to unit chiefs to analysts and messengers earning salaries considerably above those of most Bolivian journalists.

Sen. Arturo Murillo of the opposition Democratic Unity bloc said the government is illegally subsidizing an unconstitutional political campaign with government revenue that could be used for other purposes, including shoring up the country's troubled health care system.

Television journalist Carlos Valverde said the government's cyberwar program is "a desperate effort to counter the opposition" and that attempts to hack into individual social media accounts could backfire.

Critics say the Morales government's cybercampaign takes a page from Russian President Vladimir Putin's social media strategy to covertly influence campaigns and elections in the U.S. and Western Europe. The Kremlin is accused of subsidizing cybernetic "troll firms" that promote the government's positions online, with funding by business groups friendly to the Putin government.

Mr. Morales met with Mr. Putin in Moscow in May to discuss joint ventures for hydrocarbon exploration in Bolivia, whose natural gas reserves are the main source of government revenue. Russian oil company Gazprom controls 25 percent of a strategic Bolivian gas field supplying energy to Brazil.

A MAS party source said Russia is advising Bolivia on cyberwarfare and that an elite Bolivian team of hackers has gone to Moscow for special training.

The government's campaign to recruit a cyberforce to win the social media debate is not without irony. Mr. Morales said "bad information" on opposition social media sites was the main reason that the 2016 referendum on term limits was defeated.

"How can it be that because of envy, particular groups, or interests foreign to those of Bolivia, people can produce lies, falsehoods, to hurt the country? They are not harming Evo but Bolivia," he told reporters at the time.

## **To Hackers, We're Bambi In The Woods**

By Nicholas Kristof

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

If you're worried about terrorism, here's a bigger threat to lose sleep over: an all-out cyberattack.

Suddenly, the electricity goes out at the office. Cellphone networks and the internet have also gone black, along with subways and trains.

The roads are jammed because traffic lights aren't working. Credit cards are now just worthless bits of plastic, and A.T.M.s are nothing but hunks of metal. Gas stations can't pump gas.

Banks have lost records of depositors' accounts. Dam floodgates mysteriously open. Water and sewage treatment plants stop working.

People can't reach loved ones. Phone systems are down, so 911 is useless. Looters roam the streets. Food and water soon run out in the cities.

And that's just the first week.

Security experts have nightmares like that. Countries like Russia and China have implanted malicious software in the American electrical grid, nuclear power plants and water systems to have the capacity to mount such attacks — and we have done the same to them. Indeed, the U.S. prepared an extensive plan, Nitro Zeus, to unplug Iran through cyberattacks, but in the end we never implemented it.

These are some of the issues explored in an important — and deeply sobering — new book about cyberwarfare, "The Perfect Weapon," by my Times colleague David Sanger. I've known Sanger since we joined our college newspaper together at the beginning of freshman year, and he has spent the decades since exploring the intersections of technology and international security — and trying to alert us to our vulnerabilities.

The risks aren't just of a cyber-Pearl Harbor but also of a full spectrum of attacks. The Russian hack of Democratic emails should have been a wake-up call. A senior F.B.I. official told Sanger: "These D.N.C. guys were like Bambi walking in the woods, surrounded by hunters. They had zero chance of surviving an attack. Zero."

Even after the attacks we didn't learn, and much of the U.S. is still like Bambi. The Russian hack of the U.S. elections in 2016 should have us on our toes for 2018, but the Trump administration has done little to prepare to fight off new hacking.

Sanger describes a Russian cyberattack on the Ukrainian electrical grid shortly before Christmas 2015. Operators of the grid were bewildered: Nothing they clicked on their computers had any effect, and cursors dashed across their screens to disconnect circuits and delete backup systems. Finally, the hackers disconnected the backup electrical system, so that the operators in the control room were literally in the dark.

Hackers are increasingly brazen. When Russian hackers infiltrated State Department and White House computer systems in 2014, National Security Agency specialists tried to uproot them — and the hackers fought back. "It was basically hand-to-hand combat in a network," Rick Ledgett, a senior N.S.A. official, told Sanger.

Cyber is the "perfect weapon," in Sanger's formulation, because attackers typically get off scot-free.

If North Korea had responded to the Sony Pictures movie "The Interview" by blowing up cinemas, it might have faced a strong response. Instead, it hacked into Sony's system, destroyed computers and paralyzed the company. In both the Sony and Democratic Party attacks, the hackers enlisted the American news media to magnify the damage; we in the media were used, and we should reflect on that.

Later, North Korean hackers pilfered \$81 million from the Bangladesh Central Bank (they might have gotten away with almost \$1 billion, but someone misspelled "foundation"). For all this, North Korea faced no significant punishment.

Sanger writes that American officials debated whether to punish Vladimir Putin for his hacks by exposing his links to oligarchs, or even by making some of his money disappear. But Barack Obama balked, fearful of what Putin might do next, and Donald Trump has also dithered.

Gen. Paul Nakasone, head of the U.S. Cyber Command, was asked in his confirmation hearings this year what our adversaries think will happen if they attack us in cyberspace. "They do not think much will happen," he replied. "They don't fear us."

As Sanger writes, "Deterrence is not working in the cyber realm." Why wouldn't Putin interfere in our 2018 midterms since we're both vulnerable and not serious about responding?

We need to establish a cost to cyberattacks and help establish norms for cyber — a Geneva Convention for hacking. The problem is that the U.S. also uses cyberwarfare (to destroy Iranian centrifuges and, apparently, North Korean missiles), and we don't want to constrain ourselves.

Meanwhile, we are becoming ever more vulnerable, partly because daily life is becoming more dependent on computers, and partly because cyber-offense is far ahead of cyber-defense. The U.S. started with a huge advantage, but Russia and China have nearly caught up, and Iran and North Korea don't seem far behind.

In the 1990s, we were too complacent about the risks of terrorism; it took the twin towers collapsing to galvanize us. In the world of cyberspace, we're still too complacent: Let's stop playing Bambi!

Gail Collins is on book leave.

I invite you to sign up for my free, twice-weekly email newsletter. Please also join me on Facebook and Google+, watch my YouTube videos and follow me on Twitter (@NickKristof).

## **What Was On A USB Fan Given At The Trump-Kim Summit? Security Experts Say Nothing — But Don't Plug It In.**

By Hamza Shaban

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

When journalists arrived in Singapore for the historic summit between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month, security experts were alarmed by what awaited those who were covering the event. Inside a welcome bag that included bottled water featuring the faces of Trump and Kim and a guide to the area was something far more suspicious: a miniature fan that connects to a computer's USB port.

The discovery prompted a security researcher to disassemble the fan to inspect the USB. Security experts say that people should never use USB devices without knowing where they come from. Hackers and spies can use them as Trojan horses — devices that seem innocuous but are loaded with malware designed to take control of a target's computer and steal information. The summit had attracted journalists from all over the world. Since reporters are often in contact with business and government officials and gather nonpublic information, their personal devices and newsroom networks could be enticing targets.

Experts say USBs are a common way for hackers to gather information or infect devices. In 2008, Russian agents planted virus-carrying USB sticks in retail kiosks around NATO headquarters in Kabul to gain access to a classified Pentagon network, according to the New Yorker. In 2013, Italian newspapers alleged that Russian operatives used USB devices to try to spy on world leaders at a Group of 20 summit in St. Petersburg.

Research suggests that average citizens can also become targets. In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security planted USBs and CDs in government parking lots to test the security practices (and susceptibility) of employees and contractors. Sixty percent of people who picked up the items plugged them into work computers, and if the disks or USBs had an official logo printed on them, the rate shot up to 90 percent. In another experiment conducted at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2016, researchers dropped nearly 300 USB sticks on campus and found that nearly half the time someone would pick them up and plug them into their computer.

Sergei Skorobogatov, a hardware security researcher at the University of Cambridge, tested one of the fans from the summit. In an analysis of the components, Skorobogatov said he found no malicious software functionality inside the fan. But he was quick to add that people shouldn't let their guard down when it comes to swag. "However, this does not eliminate the possibility of malicious or Trojan components wired to USB connector in other fans, lamps and other end-user USB devices," he wrote in the analysis published on his staff website and first reported by ZDNet.

In other words, it's not a good idea to plug unknown devices into the USB ports of your own devices, Skorobogatov said in an interview with The Washington Post. He added that, as in the case of the fans, just because one

USB device in a given group is safe, doesn't mean the rest of them are.

Jake Williams, founder of the cybersecurity firm Rendition InfoSec and a former member of the National Security Agency's hacking group, was also circumspect about the USB fans. He said that malicious actors could have narrowly targeted one reporter who was of special interest out of 100, meaning that most fans may have appeared harmless even as some might have been used to target specific journalists. The extremely small sample size of one fan makes it hard to draw conclusions, he said. But on the general practice of using hardware given to you by strangers or found in public places, he was direct, "It's horrendously bad."

## Europe's Cyber Threat Hides In Plain Sight

By Martin Arnold

[Financial Times](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from the Financial Times are available to FT subscribers by clicking the link.

## New York Cops Are Hacking iPhones With Secretive \$15,000 GrayKey

By Thomas Fox-Brewster

[Forbes](#), July 3, 2018

With its promise to unlock the latest Apple iPhone models, the Grayshift GrayKey has been increasingly popular across local and federal police forces. From the FBI and the Coast Guard to the IRS, U.S. government divisions have become big fans of the hacking box, which hooks up to iPhones via the Lightning port before attempting to find device passcodes.

But, until now, there was no solid evidence GrayShift's digital lockpick worked as advertised. No case had been documented where the GrayKey had cracked open an actual iPhone. But this week Forbes obtained a successful application for a court order (published below) to allow the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for New York to use GrayKey to unlock a pair of iPhones belonging to a suspect accused of selling crack to an undercover officer.

Legal representation for the suspect, whose name has not been revealed, said they believed GrayKey was successful in gaining access to the client's iPhones. Jerome Greco, staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society, told Forbes his team was waiting to learn what data was actually obtained from the devices. The client was arrested in summer 2017 and in winter of that year investigators tried to access the phone without GrayKey but failed, Greco explained. The order allowing use of GrayKey arrived this spring, said Greco, who declined to give precise dates to protect the identity of the client. He was also unable to divulge the models of the searched iPhones.

According to the court filing, a forensics expert at the Special Narcotics Prosecutor believed GrayKey would allow him to obtain the iPhones' passcode and "perform a full data extraction on the devices' hard drive, SIM card and its applications." The order was granted by an unnamed New York judge.

GrayKey has become a desired tool across government as it attempts to access Apple's increasingly secure smartphones. GrayShift was launched in the months proceeding the San Bernardino terrorist incident in 2016, when the FBI asked Apple to help it access the iPhone 5C of shooter Syed Rizwan Farook. Apple declined, and the government was left to find other ways of searching iPhones.

In the months that followed, former FBI director James Comey and his replacement Christopher Wray continued to push industry to come up with solutions to allow access to encrypted phones. But this year, it became clear private industry had developed techniques to access Apple systems. First, Forbes revealed Israeli provider Cellebrite claimed it had a way to crack the latest iOS-based models, right up to the iPhone X. Shortly after, Forbes uncovered Grayshift, then an unheard of Atlanta-based entity cofounded by an ex-Apple security staffer, that was promising much the same as Cellebrite at the cost of between \$15,000 and \$30,000. Quoting Forbes' reporting, Congressmen and women sent a letter to FBI director Wray, asking whether the agency was exhausting all options to access iPhones before asking for Apple assistance.

Just recently Apple released an update for iPhones that appeared to counter GrayKey's effectiveness. Called USB Restricted Mode, the feature disables connections via the Lightning port an hour after the device has been last unlocked. The iPhone can only be charged via the port unless the user unlocks the iPhone. But Grayshift claimed its tools still worked as marketed.

GrayShift didn't respond to a request for comment on this article.

How to trust GrayKey?

Alongside concerns over what secret iOS vulnerabilities GrayKey is exploiting, Greco also brought up anxieties around the reliability of the tool from a legal perspective. He fears that any bugs in the technology could alter what's on a seized iPhone, which could include evidence used in court.

"I can't know it doesn't change something on the phone. I don't suspect them of doing something malicious, but the nature of code and technology, there are mistakes," he said.

Greco has similar concerns about Cellebrite's Advanced Services, where police aren't given a hacking box as with GrayKey. Instead, Cellebrite asks police to send the devices into labs where its engineers attempt to break Apple's security measures.

And while vendors say only law enforcement are granted access to the tools, there were regular examples of

police misconduct across America every day, Greco added. "They routinely do things that violate the Constitution."

## **TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS**

### **Cleveland Terror Arrest: Suspect Was Never 'A Violent Person,' Aunt Says**

By Dawn Kendrick

[USA Today](#), July 3, 2018

CLEVELAND — The day after the FBI arrested an Ohio man on accusations of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, an aunt said she was "thrown for a loop" on the news of her nephew's arrest.

The FBI announced Monday they had arrested Demetrius Pitts, also known as Abdur Raheem Rafiq, 48, of Maple Heights, Ohio, for allegedly plotting an attack in Cleveland on July 4 for al-Qaida.

"He's never been a violent person, so that's what I don't understand," said Diane Stoudemire, Pitts' aunt, in front of her home near Cincinnati.

"He had had some problems with drugs and everything. He came up without his father, which is my brother, that was killed before Demetrius was born. His mother passed away while Demetrius was in penitentiary, so he's been having such a hard time," she said. But she added, she hadn't seen or heard from Pitts in at least two years.

July 2: FBI: Man who planned attack on Cleveland wanted to give explosive-filled cars to military children

June 16: Wisconsin woman charged with promoting Islamic State held without bail

According to the FBI, the arrest of Pitts was more than two years in the making.

The man they call "an al-Qaida wannabe" first came to authorities' attention in 2017 with anti-American messages on Facebook.

An undercover agent got the rest.

Pitts bragged about planned mass casualties for the most American of holidays.

On Monday, FBI Special Agent Stephen Anthony, of the Cleveland Division, said, "Pitts suggested words to the effect 'I did tell myself that their holiday is coming up, the 4th of July. Independence day. What would hit them in the core? Blow up. Have a bomb.'"

More specifically, a 30-page criminal complaint said Pitts wanted to:

- Recruit people to kill Americans
- Chop off heads and hands and dispose of bodies
- Use remote control cars to detonate multiple bombs

"He looked for locations to park a van that would be packed with explosives," said U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman.

Agents said Voinovich Park on Lake Erie, would kick off the coordinated bombings followed by St. John's Cathedral,

the Celebrezze Federal Building and the U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers.

May 18: French government says it foiled terror attack; 2 brothers held

April 19: Kansas extremists convicted of plotting to bomb Somali refugees

"He wanted us to be afraid to speak our minds. He also wanted us to be afraid to gather together in public places," Herdman said.

Stoudemire said she "has no idea" why Pitts was in Cleveland but she said she knows this much, "If I see him I may want to hit him. But I would like to know what's wrong with him."

Pitts' threats went beyond Cleveland.

The FBI believes he was planning a bombing in Philadelphia similar to the one at the Oklahoma City Federal Building in 1995.

Pitts told an undercover agent that Philadelphia would be the "big target" and that the attack "will be done" on Labor Day, according to an affidavit. Pitts also pointed to possible targets, including Philadelphia's City Hall and a federal building, the court document said.

Pitts' hearing before a federal judge was postponed until Thursday.

In a statement, Cleveland police said it is "not our policy to discuss tactics or personnel resources" regarding whether they would be increasing security Wednesday.

The statement concluded with "We continue to rely on the public to be our extra set of eyes and ears, to be vigilant, and when they "see something, say something."

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that "President Trump commends the work of the DOJ and the FBI in helping stop this would-be attacker."

Contributing: The Associated Press. Follow Dawn Kendrick on Twitter: @DawnKendrickTV3

## **Terrorist Plot Foiled By FBI Was Cleveland's 2nd In 6 Years; A Look Back At The Bridge-bombing Case Of 2012**

[Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), July 3, 2018

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Clevelanders breathed a collective sigh of relief Monday over the catastrophe that could have been – what investigators describe as a foiled terrorist plot that aimed to kill or injure untold numbers of citizens, cause large-scale destruction and shatter our sense of security for years to come.

On Monday, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force announced that a plot to detonate a bomb at Cleveland's 4th of July celebration downtown had been thwarted and a Maple Heights man arrested. Demetrius N. Pitts, 48, is accused of telling an undercover agent of his desire to join the terrorist

group al Qaeda and kill U.S. citizens during an attack at Voinovich Park, the site of the city's annual fireworks display that attracts thousands of holiday celebrants.

The announcement – the shock, the uneasiness, the sense of a crisis averted – harken back to a similar moment six years ago, when law enforcement agents described at a news conference an interrupted terrorist scheme to blow-up a well-traveled bridge, before the plot had the chance to play out in the chaos and carnage of an actual attack.

The case highlighted the FBI's aggressive commitment to rooting out terrorism, homegrown or otherwise. But it also left the agency vulnerable to widespread criticism about its use of paid informants and whether the defendants would have followed through with the bombing had an undercover agent not supplied them with the resources.

Anarchists stand out among peaceful protesters

The story begins in October 2011, when the FBI, acting on a tip, sent a confidential informant to an Occupy Cleveland protest to observe a group of self-proclaimed "anarchists," whose provocative behavior had been raising concerns at otherwise peaceful demonstrations.

The local Occupy movement, one of hundreds that had sprung up worldwide that fall in protest of social and economic inequality, had been well underway and was entrenched in Cleveland's Public Square, where members "occupied" the space for 24 hours a day for months.

The informant witnessed several men in the crowd trying to provoke peaceful demonstrators into violent action. One of them, Douglas Wright, exchanged phone numbers with the informant.

And so began a six-month relationship that ended with Wright and four others – Anthony Hayne, 35, Brandon Baxter, 20, of Lakewood; Joshua Stafford, 23, of Cleveland; and Connor Stevens, 20, of Berea – trying to blow up the Ohio 82 bridge spanning the Cuyahoga River.

A terrorist plot evolves

According to court records and testimony, the informant – later identified as Shaquille Azir – witnessed the five men scheming for months. Their plotting began with relatively tame activities, such as lighting smoke bombs in downtown Cleveland or knocking signs off buildings.

But soon, the anti-establishment rhetoric escalated, as they discussed ways to "stop the transportation of the 1 percent," a reference to the richest and most powerful people in the United States. Their plots were haphazard, ranging from schemes to blow up the Cuyahoga County Justice Center, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the Interstate-480 bridge in Valley View, and a cargo ship, according to federal documents.

Other potential targets included the abandoned streetcar tunnels beneath downtown Cleveland, a Cuyahoga County Homeland Security operation called the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center, an unidentified Ku Klux Klan

location in Ohio, and the new Horseshoe Casino on Public Square.

But all eventually were discounted for a variety of reasons, and they eventually settled on the Ohio 82 bridge that crosses from Brecksville to Sagamore Hills over the Cuyahoga Valley National Park,

The group relied on the "Anarchist Cookbook," a 1970 how-to book on building bombs using household items and dealing with police during riots. They also devised ways to cover their tracks electronically, and obtained computer programs they hoped would destroy their trail of Internet searches.

In late March 2012, the confidential informant met with Wright at an unidentified location.

"Tell me what all we need to make the bombs so that we can start gathering," the informant said in the recorded conversation.

"Mainly bleach," Wright replied.

"Bleach?" the informant said.

"You can make plastic explosives with bleach."

Six days later, while driving across the I-480 bridge, Baxter asked, "How much do we need to take out a bridge?"

Rather than make their own bombs, however, the informant led them to an undercover agent posing as an arm's dealer. The agent ultimately sold Azir and the five conspirators 10 pounds of phony explosives, two dummy bombs equipped with red LED lights, two cellphone detonators, bulletproof vests, tear gas canisters and gas masks for \$800.

Then, on the rainy night of April 30, 2012, Azir drove the five men and the fake explosives to the base of the bridge.

Stafford went back to the sport utility vehicle to fetch the cellphone that was to be used as a detonating device. Surveillance video shows Stafford returning to the scene and placing one of the fake bombs, packed into a plastic lunchbox, at the base of a bridge support. Wright placed the other.

Azir then drove the group to a restaurant in nearby Valley View, where they planned to detonate the bombs, listen for the explosions and celebrate their anarchy.

Stafford punched in the detonation code – 2332. But the explosion never came. Instead they were met by a swarm of FBI agents, who had been waiting nearby.

Terrorism or entrapment?

The men faced 20 to 30 years in prison, charged with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction, using bombs in an attempt to destroy a bridge carrying interstate commerce and attempting to destroy a bridge carrying interstate commerce.

Hayne cooperated from the start, pleading guilty to the charges and agreeing to testify against his co-defendants in exchange for a reduced sentence.

The attorneys for the remaining four defendants set out to prove at trial that the FBI and its paid informant, who had a lengthy criminal history, had entrapped the men in the plot.

Defense lawyers argued that Azir, who received \$6,000 for his information on the bridge plot and other cases, had hired the anarchists to work on jobs at houses he owned and plied them with alcohol and marijuana, all while talking them into the scheme.

Within a couple months, however, Baxter, Stevens and Wright had admitted to conspiracy charges in U.S. District Court in Akron without written plea agreements with prosecutors. Stafford, meanwhile, was undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

While U.S. District Judge David Dowd Jr. considered their sentences, defense attorneys argued that the incident was more of a prank than an act of domestic terrorism and didn't have the firepower to threaten lives. They hired a military demolition expert, who reported that had the fake explosives been real C-4, the amount left at the bridge's concrete support pillars would not have packed enough power to collapse it.

Assistant U.S. attorneys countered that the defendants should be sentenced based on their intentions to destroy the bridge, not on their failure to actually destroy the bridge.

They asked the judge to apply strict terrorism sentencing guidelines, noting that the men had hoped to trigger a civil war among protesters gathered in Chicago for the G8/NATO summit the following month.

Dowd indicated in pre-sentencing documents that in determining his punishment for the would-be terrorists, he would consider their lack of firepower. He also agreed with defense claims that the confidential informant manipulated the bridge-bombing plot, but he declined to accuse Azir of entrapment – even as many others across the region and country did.

Outside the federal courthouse, supporters of the men protested, wearing black shirts that said "Expose Entrapment." Meanwhile, opinion writers and columnists at The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Guardian and others questioned whether the men would have hatched such a plan and attempted to carry it out if the FBI hadn't facilitated it and if the informant hadn't aggressively urged them forward.

"Azir molded the five's childish bravado and drunken fantasies into terrorism," wrote Arun Gupta for The Guardian. "He played father figure to the lost men, providing them with jobs, housing, beer and drugs. Every time the scheme threatened to collapse into gutterpunk chaos, he kept it on track."

In the end, Dowd handed the first four defendants – including Hayne, who cooperated with investigators – sentences between 6 and 11- 1/2 years in federal prison.

Stafford represents himself

Psychiatrists who examined Stafford found him to be suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and other mental illnesses, likely stemming from trauma he suffered as a young boy. However, they declared him competent to stand trial. And he eventually fired his attorney, opting instead to represent himself in the only jury trial to come of the case.

In his often disjointed arguments and testimony, Stafford told the jury that he was a latecomer to the group and that he only went along with the plot because the FBI informant had promised to buy him a pack of cigarettes and dinner at Applebee's. Stafford said he was not present for any of the group's planning meetings and was unaware that his friends intended to blow up the bridge.

Azir confirmed in his testimony that he didn't meet Stafford until April, and that he was angry at Wright for inviting someone into the group three days before the bridge-bombing plot was scheduled to be executed.

"At the last minute you bring in this new dude," Azir complained on a secretly recorded meeting April 27. Wright assured Azir that Stafford, nicknamed Skelly, was trustworthy and "likes to do revolutionary" stuff.

But the fact remained that Stafford both planted one of the bombs and punched in the cell phone code multiple times to try to detonate it. The jury deliberated for only 90 minutes before declaring Stafford guilty of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, and maliciously attempting to destroy the bridge. He is serving a 10-year sentence at a high-security prison in Tucson, Arizona.

In a statement released after the Stafford verdict, then-U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach credited the FBI with saving lives – in much the same way law enforcement officials are being applauded this week for concluding their investigation before any bombing plot could become a reality in downtown Cleveland.

"By being diligent, smart and responsible," Dettelbach said, "law enforcement agents were able to not only literally defuse a dangerous situation, but they also were able to catch a dangerous group of violent men before they were able to harm anyone else."

## **Cleveland Terrorist Arrest A Reminder Of How Much We Owe Undercover Intelligence Operatives: Editorial**

[Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), July 4, 2018

The Cleveland Fourth of July terrorist plot that FBI agents say they've thwarted in arresting and charging a Maple Heights man with attempted material support for al-Qaida is just one of a long string of terrorist plots that federal agents say they've foiled since 9/11.

It's a reminder of how much Americans owe covert intelligence for avoiding a repeat of that terrible September

day when al-Qaida operatives delivered mass murder from the air.

And it should give us all pause on this 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to give thanks to those who sacrifice so much to keep us free and safe. No doubt the foiled plots we've heard about are a small percentage of the ones that remain undisclosed for intelligence reasons.

The latest in Cleveland involved no model citizen. An FBI affidavit portrays Demetrius N. Pitts, 48, a U.S. citizen from Cincinnati with a history of violent crimes and two stints in prison, who was apparently living in the Cleveland area during rehab, as wanting to bomb targets in downtown Cleveland during Independence Day celebrations to kill as many people as possible, including Marines.

Pitts apparently never had the material means to carry out the bombings and told an undercover FBI agent that he just wanted to do the planning.

Yet he showed little concern, as his plot plans grew, about the victims who would be maimed and killed. And the fact he was dealing with a federal agent and informant doesn't minimize the threat of other possibly unhinged or disaffected individuals who might make the right contacts with actual terrorists.

Pitts, using the alias Abdur Raheem Rafeeq, first came to the attention of the FBI in December 2015 with a private Facebook message the affidavit asserts he sent to a California political talk show, that said in part, "The USA will be destroy [sic]. Allahu Akbar." An investigation by the FBI in Cincinnati from last September to this April determined Pitts "was willing to conduct a U.S. based attack and was willing to join" a foreign terrorist organization.

Last month, Pitts pledged allegiance to al-Qaida, according to the affidavit. And reconnaissance video Pitts shot in recent days included such possible Cleveland targets as the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Voinovich Park, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and St. John Cathedral.

The federal affidavit suggests Pitts, who thought he was dealing with an al-Qaida go-between instead of an FBI agent, saw the Cleveland bombings as a prelude to attacks in Philadelphia.

Since 9/11, there have been scores of other foiled terrorist plots with targets that ranged from the New York City subway system to a Dallas high-rise, a Kansas City 9/11 commemoration and a plot to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge by an alleged al-Qaida agent living in Columbus, Ohio. In Cleveland, Pitts' arrest was the second major FBI sting credited with thwarting a local bomb plot – in 2012 and 2013, five activists were convicted of conspiracy for plotting to blow up the Ohio 82 bridge over the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

In the Ohio 82 case, the men's lawyers charged that a paid FBI informant entrapped the co-conspirators and egged

on their plotting – but the fact remains that a fake bomb was planted and an attempt was made to detonate it.

For now, federal prosecutors still have to make their case against Pitts. But Clevelanders headed out today to celebrate the nation's birthday have a lot more reasons to breathe easy.

## Though Battered, FBI Is Still Keeping Us Safe

By Mike Vogel

[AM New York](#), July 4, 2018

On Wednesday, the people of Cleveland got to watch their Fourth of July parade and fireworks in safety, thanks to the FBI.

FBI officials said Demetrius Pitts, an American citizen also known as Abdur Raheem Rafeeq who has expressed support for al-Qaida, was allegedly scouting locations to launch a bomb attack, including Cleveland's Fourth of July parade.

Pitts also allegedly talked to an undercover FBI agent about remote-control cars packed with explosives he gave to children of those in the U.S. military. He was arrested on Monday.

But that's what the FBI has been quietly and mostly effectively doing since 9/11. Last Christmas, the agency said it thwarted an attack by Everitt Aaron Johnson, an Islamic State-inspired tow-truck driver and ex-Marine who allegedly plotted to blow up a crowded San Francisco pier. Johnson had hailed the Oct. 31, 2017, attack in NYC in which an ISIS sympathizer plowed a pickup truck into a bike path, killing eight people.

The FBI, while not perfect, has worked diligently for years to protect us in this way. So why is the president of the United States constantly bashing the FBI and other U.S. intelligence agencies trying to protect us? Because U.S. intelligence discovered that Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential election, and may have colluded with the Trump campaign to do so. The president recently called the investigation of such collusion "a political hit job" and talked darkly of a "deep state" conspiracy against him.

Constantly bashing and denigrating U.S. intelligence agencies while praising Russian President Vladimir Putin ("He said he didn't meddle") and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un ("He's got a great personality") undermines the morale and effectiveness of the agencies.

"The FBI is in tatters?" former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates tweeted. "No. The only thing in tatters is the President's respect for the rule of law. The dedicated men and women of the FBI deserve better."

So while you might not hear this much lately, thank God for the FBI, and other U.S. intelligence agents working daily to keep us safe from enemies foreign and domestic.

BTW, what was the response from our president to the FBI preventing a disaster this week?

Crickets.

## Two Years After Mysterious Central Park Explosion, ATF Releases New Photo

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is looking for tips in the unsolved case

By Zolan Kanno-Youngs

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## A Photo Of A Bag, And A Fresh Push For Clues In Central Park Blast

By Rick Rojas

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

Two years ago, an explosion rocked Central Park and alarmed New York City during a three-day Fourth of July weekend. The police initially figured that it had been a mishap involving fireworks left in a remote corner of the park. Later, though, investigators discovered that the explosive material was a compound familiar in terrorist bombing attacks.

Yet how it ended up in the park remains a mystery.

Hoping to attract fresh leads in the lagging investigation, the police this week released a photograph of a bag for "tropical crackers" from a bakery that was found at the scene.

ATF & @NYPDnews are offering a reward up to \$40,000 for info about an explosion that occurred in Central Park on July 3, 2016. More at <https://t.co/vPLBN22vHt>. [pic.twitter.com/5zw9DzveC6](https://pic.twitter.com/5zw9DzveC6)

On the morning of July 3, 2016, the police said, an 18-year-old man visiting from Virginia stepped on the explosive material, setting off the explosion in a secluded area of Central Park, close to the Fifth Avenue and 60th Street entrance. The man, Connor Golden, had set up a tightrope about a foot off the ground with friends when he stepped on the unseen explosive material. His leg was so wounded that doctors had to amputate it below the knee.

"It's a very distinctive bag and our hope is that it is the distinctiveness that will help jog people's memories," his father, Kevin Golden, said in an interview on Wednesday. "We're encouraged by that," he added of the development, "especially with a case where it seems like the trail has run a bit cold."

The bag was a 14-ounce package for "tropical crackers" from La Unica bakery; there are at least two bakeries with that name near New York City, though the bag's origin is unclear. There is also a \$40,000 reward in the case, and law enforcement officials are also still asking for photographs and videos taken by park visitors from around the time of the blast.

The explosion, which happened at midday on a Sunday, jolted the city and created a situation that only intensified after false reports spread that the police were closing and clearing out Central Park. That day, police officials said that investigators did not believe it was connected to terrorism and described the explosive as an "experiment with fireworks."

But officials later said that investigators found at the scene a compound like one that had been used in improvised explosive devices, but it lacked other elements of a bomb, like a trigger or shrapnel.

A year after the explosion, the police commissioner, James P. O'Neill, said in a statement that the department was using "every investigative tool" to find out who left the explosive material in the park. The police renewed their request for anyone with information to step forward. "No detail is too small," Mr. O'Neill said.

Mr. Golden, now less than a week from his 21st birthday, was visiting with friends from the University of Miami while on summer vacation. His family has expressed concern over the Police Department's handling of the case, believing it should have been treated as a terrorism investigation.

Kevin Golden said that the family has petitioned the F.B.I. to take over, but they have gotten no response. His wife has also started looking into leads that she found over social media, which she forwarded to investigators. "It seems like those have not panned out," he said.

But Mr. Golden said that his son, who now wears a prosthesis, was focused on moving ahead. He does not ski and windsurf as he did before, his father said, but he is increasingly active. While on break from school, he has been working as a canoe guide in the Boundary Waters, in Northern Minnesota. "So far, so good," Mr. Golden said of the summer job.

Follow Rick Rojas on Twitter: @rar

Collapse

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## **New York Judge Voids Pakistani Man's Conviction For Aiding Al Qaeda**

By Jonathan Stempel

[Reuters](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **DOJ Moves To Rescind Naturalized US Citizenship Of Chicago Man Who Provided Support To Terrorists**

By Diana Stancy Correll

[Washington Examiner](#), July 3, 2018

The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Tuesday that would rescind the naturalized U.S. citizenship of a Chicago man who pleaded guilty and was convicted of supplying material support to terrorists.

Khaleel Ahmed, originally from India, pleaded guilty in 2009 for providing material support to terrorists and for traveling overseas in pursuit of murdering or harming U.S. military forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Ahmed, along with his cousin Zubair Ahmed, traveled to Cairo, Egypt, with plans to participate in activity that would kill or hurt U.S. military forces. After returning from Cairo, the men became knowledgeable with operating firearms and counter-surveillance techniques. Likewise, they gathered and distributed videos of violence on U.S. military forces abroad and guides on military strategies and weaponry.

The activity of Ahmed and his cousin first started while he was a permanent resident in the U.S. However, he was arrested after he had obtained his naturalized U.S. citizenship and the civil denaturalization complaint claims that Ahmed was intentionally deceptive and hid his criminal behavior during his naturalization proceedings.

"The [U.S.] will use every available law enforcement tool to combat terrorism," Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio said in a statement. "Those who are naturalized in the [U.S.] swear to support and defend our Constitution and laws against all enemies. Those who have actively supported terrorism and concealed that fact cannot take that oath in good faith and should not have the benefit of continued citizenship."

"Civil denaturalization is thus one important tool in our anti-terrorism efforts," he added. "We will continue to zealously seek out and prosecute individuals like Mr. Ahmed."

Ahmed was sentenced to eight years and four months in prison in 2010. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigation and the Civil Division's Office of Immigration Litigation has been probing the case.

"The [U.S.] will never be a safe haven for those seeking to support terrorists," Special Agent in Charge James Gibbons of Homeland Security Investigations Chicago said in a statement. "When individuals lie to obtain immigration benefits, the system is severely undermined and the security of our nation is at risk."

## **Former Detainees Call For Inquiry Into UK Role In Torture And Jailing**

Nine men once held at US 'secret prisons' make appeal after extent of British torture links post-9/11 revealed Britain's role in our torture and detention must be investigated | Letters

By Kevin Rawlinson

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#), July 4, 2018

A judicial inquiry must be launched into the extent of British involvement in kidnapping, false imprisonment and torture by the US during the "war on terror", a group of former detainees says.

In a letter to the Guardian nine former British nationals and residents said they were astounded by the contents of reports released by the parliamentary intelligence and security committee last week which revealed that the UK security services' links to torture and rendition were more widespread than previously thought.

They said the documents confirmed everything they had "been saying over the course of almost two decades, that British intelligence services were wilfully complicit in our kidnap, false imprisonment, torture and other mistreatment".

The group, who were detained by the US at "secret prisons" in Kandahar and Bagram, in Afghanistan, and at Guantánamo Bay, said the committee's report contained statistics that had "astounded even us", though they described them as the tip of the iceberg.

The parliamentary committee said British intelligence agencies were involved in the torture and kidnap of terrorism suspects after the 9/11 attacks in the US, though it said there was no evidence of British officers' direct involvement in physical abuse.

But the reports said that both MI5 and MI6 were aware of the mistreatment of detainees by the US and others "at an early point" and cited cases in which they were "party to mistreatment administered by others".

The reports prompted questions about what the former home secretary Jack Straw knew and when he knew it. They were also being pored over by senior Scotland Yard detectives on the recommendation of MPs.

In their letter, Moazzam Begg, Shaker Aamer and Asif Iqbal, along with Jamil El-Banna, Ruhul Ahmed and Bisher al-Rawi, called on the UK government to "order a comprehensive and transparent judge-led public inquiry into the perpetrators of this abuse, and the individuals who ordered it".

The letter, also authored by Binyam Mohamed, Shafiq Rasul and Omar Deghayes, read: "Between us we have spent close to 90 years imprisoned without charge or trial. We have endured cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. However, we really do want to put this episode behind us."

They said they did not trust the US government to properly hold those involved in the torture to account. "On the contrary, since then the US has elected a president who believes that 'torture works' and who has appointed someone who ran a torture facility to head the CIA, despite reliable reports alleging she ordered the destruction of evidence documenting torture.

"Therefore, there must be meaningful accountability at the very highest corridors of power to ensure that such crimes never recur."

## Britain's Role In Our Torture And Detention Must Be Investigated

**Nine former prisoners held by the US in Guantánamo Bay and Afghanistan demand a full judicial inquiry into their treatment**

By Letters

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#), July 4, 2018

We, the former British nationals and residents who were imprisoned by the US government at secret prisons in Kandahar, Bagram and Guantánamo, call on the British government to order a comprehensive and transparent judge-led public inquiry into the perpetrators of this abuse, and the individuals who ordered it, following the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) released last week (Revealed: true scale of UK role in torture and rendition, 29 June).

Despite its limitations, the report confirms everything we have been saying over the course of almost two decades: that British intelligence services were wilfully complicit in our kidnap, false imprisonment, torture and other mistreatment.

The statistics revealed in the ISC report have astounded even us but we know that this is the tip of the iceberg.

We are, however, painfully aware that reports and inquiries of the government by the government into its own abuses have not resulted in justice. For example, the US Senate published a report in 2014 that admitted CIA agents had extraordinarily renditioned and tortured 119 prisoners during the course of the "war on terror". Despite admitting these war crimes, no prosecutions against the perpetrators have ever taken place.

On the contrary, since then the US has elected a president who believes that "torture works" and who has appointed someone who ran a torture facility to head the CIA, despite reports alleging she ordered the destruction of evidence documenting torture. He has also signed an executive order to keep Guantánamo open. Therefore, there must be meaningful accountability in the very highest corridors of power to ensure that such crimes never recur.

Between us, we have spent close to 90 years imprisoned without charge or trial. We have endured cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. However, we really do want to put this episode behind us.

We were pleased to learn about the prime minister's recent apology given to Libyan torture survivors Abdel Hakim Belhaj and Fatima Boudchar. It is now time that we, citizens and residents of this country, also receive a long overdue apology and see the perpetrators of our abuse brought to account.

Moazzam Begg  
Shaker Aamer  
Asif Iqbal

Jamil El-Banna  
Ruhai Ahmed  
Bisher al-Rawi  
Binyam Mohamed  
Shafiq Rasul  
Omar Deghayes

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gu.com/letters

## **OTHER DHS NEWS**

### **David Brock's Top Researcher Convinced Nazis Infiltrated DHS**

By Brent Scher

[Washington Free Beacon](#), July 3, 2018

The head researcher at David Brock's multimillion-dollar opposition research shop is convinced by the Twitter-born conspiracy that Nazis at the Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security use numerical code to transmit white supremacist messages through its press releases.

Pat Dennis is research director for American Bridge 21st Century's anti-Trump war room. The 47-person war room he leads, according to confidential documents obtained by the Washington Free Beacon last year, was bolstered by a \$7.8 million budget in 2017.

Dennis's interest in the conspiracy was piqued almost immediately after Twitter user Laurie Voss initially pointed out last Thursday that a DHS press release from February was filled with what Voss saw as Nazi code. Voss argued the release had both a 14-word headline and 14 bullet points (it actually has 13 bullet points), important because 14 is the number of words in "a famous white supremacist slogan" that, just like the DHS headline, starts with "we must secure." Voss also noted the use in a statistic of the number 88, "a Nazi dog whistle for Heil Hitler."

"There is absolutely no doubt now that this article is intentionally a signal to Nazis," Voss concluded.

Dennis, just 40 minutes after the initial tweet, announced he would be filing a FOIA on the controversy.

Dropping in a FOIA about this <https://t.co/oIPqhhtNdb>

— Pat Dennis (@patdennis) June 28, 2018

Dennis followed up Voss's announcement by saying the use of the number 88 "clinches it" for him, saying it "flipped him from 'wow that's weird' to 'we're doing work on this now.'"

The random use of 88/14 is what clinches it. I've been in touch with people on the hill about this, and DHS better not stonewall us on this FOIA <https://t.co/z83eWGgeJR>

— Pat Dennis (@patdennis) June 28, 2018

Dennis did not respond to inquiries into how serious he is about the Nazi code theory or what exactly he asked for in his FOIA. A spokesman for American Bridge didn't respond to a request for comment on Dennis's interest in the theory.

DHS wouldn't comment on whether Dennis or anybody at American Bridge had filed a FOIA request, but it has written off the conspiracy and anyone who entertains it.

"This is a Twitter troll conspiracy theory that on its face is beneath any credible media outlet," a spokesman told Buzzfeed.

Most who took a serious look at whether or not DHS has been infiltrated by Nazi code talkers have written off the conspiracy.

Some pointed out the phrase "we must secure" is a quite common one when referencing the border and others noted that there are actually 13 bullet points, not 14 as Voss claimed.

MSNBC's Chris Hayes additionally explained the "random use of 88" by DHS actually made sense, and was based on a related immigration statistic.

In re: the viral DHS post: the article only has 13 bullet points (not 14) and the 88 appears to be working off the fact that 88% of applicants pass their credible fear interview. (But a far lower percentage are granted asylum) <https://t.co/dYKXM8HkMM>

— Chris Hayes (@chrishayes) June 28, 2018

American Bridge deems itself as "the political research engine of the opposition" and has been embraced by the Democratic Party. The group brags that it has "became the heart of the party's research and communication's infrastructure."

It has in the past been revealed to be behind opposition research used by mainstream outlets such as the New York Times to attack Republican candidates.

UPDATE 4:57 p.m.: After publication of this story, Dennis reached out to provide the following statement, an apparent attempt at a joke referencing President Trump's comments following protests in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"There is an argument over to what extent the ideology of white supremacy has permeated the Trump administration, and there are some very fine people on both sides of that argument," Dennis said. "I think there's blame on both sides."

## **GLOBAL MEDIA**

### **Pressure Mounts As Merkel Fine-tunes Immigration Compromise**

By James McAuley

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

BERLIN — The fallout was swift the morning after German Chancellor Angela Merkel reached an uneasy late-night immigration compromise with hard-line coalition allies,

an agreement that appears to have saved her fragile government, at least for now.

To keep her government intact, Merkel was essentially forced to abandon the “Willkommenskultur,” or culture of welcoming, that she had preached in 2015, when she welcomed nearly 1 million migrants and refugees into Germany. With stricter border controls, transit camps and discretionary identification checks soon to be imposed on the nation’s southern border, the future of the freedom of movement, a core European principle, may now be at stake in the heart of the Schengen zone, a 26-nation area where border controls have been abolished.

Facing a potential insurrection from Horst Seehofer, her interior minister and leader of her Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, or CSU, Merkel agreed that migrants will no longer be able to enter Germany from Austria without any checks, that they will be processed in “transit centers” at the border, and that an agreement would be made with Austria in the event that migrants ineligible for asylum are not accepted back by the European Union countries where they first arrived.

Early Tuesday, the Austrian government, headed by the right-wing, anti-migrant Sebastian Kurz, announced that it had no interest in becoming embroiled in German politics. In the event that Merkel’s compromise becomes law, “we will be obliged to take measures to avoid disadvantages for Austria and its people,” the government declared in a statement.

Merkel’s compromise still depends on approval from her other coalition partner, the Social Democrats, or SPD. Party representatives have said they have “many questions” about the notion of camps along the border. But they appear unlikely to reject the proposal out of hand and trigger a new round of elections, in which they would stand to lose.

Talks between Merkel, the CSU and SPD continued Tuesday evening.

In Vienna, Kurz’s government also said that if Germany approves this plan, Austria would have no choice but to respond with a version of its own, taking “measures to protect our southern borders in particular.” Controls between Germany and Austria, as well between Austria and Italy, where hundreds of thousands of migrants initially arrived, could trigger a domino effect inside an E.U. already on edge over the migrant question.

## **Austria Could Be The Next E.U. Country To Tighten Its Borders**

By Melissa Eddy

[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

BERLIN — Hours after Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative bloc agreed to measures that would tighten Germany’s southern border, Austrian leaders announced

plans on Tuesday for similar actions that would further threaten Europe’s system of free movement.

In a last-ditch effort to save her government after weeks of bitter infighting with rebellious coalition partners, Ms. Merkel agreed late Monday to a plan to set up camps along the 500-mile border it shares with Austria to screen newly arriving migrants. Anyone found to have asylum applications pending in another European Union country would be sent back there.

The deal still needs the approval of the center-left Social Democrats, the third party in Germany’s governing coalition along with Ms. Merkel’s Christian Democrats and their Bavarian partners, the Christian Social Democrats. The Social Democrats have opposed such plans in the past, criticizing the arrangements as “mass internment camps,” a phrase with obvious historical overtones for Germans.

The plan further stipulates that if a European partner refused to take back asylum applicants, they would be sent back “on the basis of a deal with Austria,” though it is not yet clear what that deal would entail.

But Horst Seehofer, the leader of the Christian Social Democrats, whose threat to resign pressured Ms. Merkel into accepting the deal, appeared not to be waiting for his coalition partner’s approval. He told reporters early Tuesday that he had spoken by telephone with the Austrian chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, and planned to reach out to Italy as well.

Although the number of people applying for asylum in Germany has dropped significantly in recent months, most of those who make it are crossing the Mediterranean and making their way north through Austria.

Traditionally, many migrants have entered Europe through Italy, which shares a border with Austria, and registered there. But a new, populist Italian government is now turning away migrants without registering them; it might also refuse to accept migrants previously registered in Italy but now in another country.

In light of those factors, Mr. Kurz, who owes his swift rise to power primarily to his promise to combat illegal immigration, said his country would not wait for the Germans to take action. In a joint statement on Tuesday, Mr. Kurz, Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache and Interior Minister Herbert Kickl indicated that they were already drawing up plans of their own to deny migrants entry.

“Should this agreement become the German government position, we consider it necessary to take action to fend off any disadvantages for Austria and its people,” the statement said. “The Austrian government is therefore ready to take action, especially to protect our southern border.”

The Austrian leader, whose country took over the rotating presidency of the 28-member bloc on Sunday, has long called for an end to what he describes as the “waving through” of illegal migrants. That was effectively Europe’s approach during the summer of 2015 into early 2016, when

more than a million people landed in Greece and made their way north through the Balkans to Austria, Germany and Scandinavia.

The deal will also need approval from the European Union. But Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the European Commission, told reporters on Tuesday in Strasbourg, France, that in a preliminary reading, "it seems to me to be in line with the law," Reuters reported.

Last week, Mr. Juncker helped Ms. Merkel rally European leaders around the need for more coordinated, stringent policies on migration throughout the bloc.

Speaking in Brussels after the summit meeting on Friday in which leaders agreed to a compromise deal on migration, Mr. Kurz said that he was "happy about the turnaround" in Europe's policy on migration.

Milan Schreuer contributed reporting from Brussels.

## Two Britons Were Exposed To Nerve Agent That Sickened Ex-Spy, Britain Says

By Ellen Barry

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

LONDON — Two British citizens have been critically sickened by the same nerve agent, Novichok, that was used to poison a former Russian spy and his daughter four months ago, the British authorities announced on Wednesday.

The two victims, a man and a woman, both in their 40s, fell ill on Saturday in the southern town of Amesbury, England, after having visited nearby Salisbury, including a spot near where the spy and his daughter were stricken in March, the police said.

The emergence of additional Novichok victims, after four months of meticulous decontamination and public reassurances, presents British authorities with a daunting challenge.

If the nerve agent was left behind by attackers in March, then traces of it may remain in places the authorities did not search, presenting an unpredictable threat to the public. If the agent was deposited more recently, then the March poisoning was not an isolated attack.

In either case, a crisis that Britain has struggled to bring under control has now moved into an uncertain new phase.

The victims, identified locally as Charlie Rowley, 45, and Dawn Sturgess, 44, are British citizens, and the police said there was no indication that they would have been targets.

Before they collapsed, the two had spent time in the Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Salisbury, which is a short walk from where the former spy and his daughter lost consciousness. Officials cordoned off the area on Wednesday, along with several other places, including a trash bin outside the John Baker House, an assisted-living center in Salisbury.

A friend who was with Mr. Rowley and Ms. Sturgess on Saturday said that their condition rapidly deteriorated, with symptoms that included pinpoint pupils, seizures, frothing at the mouth and hallucinations.

The police said on Wednesday that they did not know whether there was a link between the new case and the poisoning of the former spy, Sergei V. Skripal, and his daughter, Yulia. Britain has accused the Russian government of being behind the earlier attack, a claim Moscow denies.

"The Counter Terrorism Policing Network is now leading the investigation into this incident," Neil Basu, an assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police who oversees counterterrorism operations, announced on Wednesday evening. About 100 detectives are working on the case, along with members of the local Wiltshire Police.

The two victims were in critical condition at Salisbury District Hospital, the authorities said.

In Salisbury, which has struggled to revive its commercial district after the March attack, many were shocked at the thought of starting over. Ruby Vitorino, who works in a jewelry shop, said that the sense of risk had subsided — until Wednesday's news.

"I got a message from a friend saying, 'Salisbury is dead, it was Novichok, Salisbury is dead,'" Ms. Vitorino said. "I don't think we've had time to take in all the implications."

A new set of spaces would now become the focus, she said. "The places they cleaned up were the places the Skripals were — not the places where the assassins were."

An exhaustive decontamination effort that began in April focused on nine sites related to the Skripals' movements on March 4, the day they were stricken. They included Mr. Skripal's house, the pub and restaurant where the two spent time that day, the grassy area where they collapsed, the ambulance and police stations used by emergency medical workers and officers, a car storage facility and the house of a detective who responded to the crime.

The sites being investigated in connection with new poisoning are different ones.

The police said a response team was first summoned at 10:15 a.m. Saturday to a home in Amesbury, about eight miles north of Salisbury. Emergency workers returned at 3:30 p.m.

Sam Hobson, who saw the victims on the day they fell ill, told reporters that Ms. Sturgess was in the bathroom when she went into a seizure, foaming at the mouth. A few hours later, when Mr. Rowley collapsed, he was sweating heavily, making noises and rocking back and forth.

"There was no response for me — he didn't even know I was there," Mr. Hobson said. "He was in another world, he was hallucinating."

Investigators initially speculated that the two had suffered from a drug overdose, but after further testing by multiple agencies, including Porton Down, the country's main

laboratory for chemical and biological weapons, they concluded that the cause was Novichok, a Soviet-developed strain of nerve agent.

Commissioner Basu acknowledged “a great deal of speculation” over a possible connection to the March poisonings of the Skripals.

“However, I must say that we are not in a position to say whether the nerve agent was from the same batch that the Skripals were exposed to,” he said. “The possibility that these two investigations might be linked is clearly a line of inquiry for us. It is important, however, that the investigation is led by the evidence available and the facts alone and we don’t make any assumptions.”

One theory on Wednesday night was that the victims might have touched contaminated items left behind by the Skripals’ assailant in March. The police have said the attacker most likely applied the Novichok to the handle of Mr. Skripal’s front door.

“Assume it was the doorknob — the person who put it there would have a coat and gloves they wouldn’t have wanted to leave the country with, and they may have wanted to hide it somewhere,” said Richard Guthrie, an independent chemical weapons expert and the editor of CBW Events.

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## **U.K. Police Say Two British Nationals Exposed To Nerve Agent Novichok**

**Incident occurred near town where former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and daughter were poisoned four months ago**

By Stephen Fidler And Will Horner

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Amesbury Couple Exposed To Novichok Poison Fight For Their Lives**

By Nic White

[Daily Mail \(UK\)](#), July 4, 2018

Police are desperately searching for the source of a deadly Novichok nerve agent that left a couple fighting for their lives after they were exposed on Saturday.

Dawn Sturgess, 44, and Charles Rowley, 45, fell desperately ill within hours of visiting Salisbury – the site of the attempted assassination of former Russian spy Sergei and his daughter Yulia Skripal.

They visited a park near where the Skripals were found collapsed in March and Ms Sturgess lives 300 yards from where they ate on the day they were poisoned four months ago.

More than 100 counter-terrorism officers along with local Whitshire police have locked down every place the couple went after their exposure in a bid to retrace their steps.

They have also dragged along friends of the known drug addicts and grilled them on where Ms Sturgess and Mr Rowley went after they were exposed – potentially in a Salisbury park.

The couple were thought to have stumbled across a discarded container or syringe used to carry the nerve agent in the attempted assassination and been ‘accidentally’ exposed.

Police wouldn’t yet publicly draw a link between the two poisonings but security officials were using ‘cross-contamination’ as their working theory, according to The Times.

A friend of Ms Sturgess also said they were feeling ill after touching an item in Salisbury’s Queen Elizabeth Gardens on Saturday, which has now been locked down by police.

There were fears the death trap thrown away by the failed assassins, whom Britain has accused of being agents of the Russian Government, was still out there awaiting its next victim.

Novichok is so deadly even a tiny amount would still be lethal four months later if it came into contact with an unsuspecting victim.

The couple’s close friend Sam Hobson, 29, said police took him to every place the couple visited – many with him in tow – to see if investigators missed anything or discover if the victims touched ‘something they shouldn’t have’.

The couple spent Friday afternoon and evening in Salisbury, where they visited a number of shops, including an off-licence, mobile phone store and chemist.

Mr Hobson said Mrs Sturgess went to hospital first, he then went to Boots with Mr Rowley, an unemployed car mechanic, to collect a prescription and red, white, and blue dye to support England in the World Cup.

They then moved on to a phone shop, then an off-licence to buy alcohol, food at Poundland, and a blanket from Barnado’s charity shop so they could relax in the sun in Queen Elizabeth Gardens in the city.

Then they attended a church fair, but when they returned home Mr Rowley began to feel unwell too.

‘He started sweating. His T-shirt was soaking wet. He got up and started rocking against the wall,’ Mr Hobson recalled.

‘His eyes were wide open and red, his pupils were like pinpricks. He began gabbling incoherently and I could tell he was hallucinating. He was making weird noises and acting like a zombie. I phoned an ambulance.

‘At first they thought it was drugs but they know now it isn’t.’

Mr Hobson said both victims were being held in isolation at Salisbury District Hospital and Ms Sturgess's flat in a hostel in the city centre cordoned off.

In January she moved into John Baker House, a homeless shelter 300 yards from the Zizzi Italian restaurant where the Skripals ate before they collapsed.

Police locked down the building along with a public rubbish bin in the corner of Rolleston Street just yards away that was known to be frequented by the couple.

Officers are also stationed outside Mr Sturgess's housing association home on a newly-built estate in Amesbury, close to Stonehenge.

The Boots where Mr Rowley picked up his prescription after his exposure, the Amesbury Baptist Church, and the Queen Elizabeth Gardens, a popular family park on the outskirts of Salisbury, were also cordoned off.

It was believed the couple may have attended a village fete on Saturday, run by the church, on Raleigh Crescent.

Confirmation of the poisoning came hours after dramatic video emerged of one of the victims being loaded into an ambulance by a paramedic wearing hazmat gear.

Mr Rowley, a registered heroin addict, was lying on his back in a stretcher as the paramedic in a white protective suit pushed it inside as two police officers watched on.

Assistant Commissioner of Specialist Operations Neil Basu said blood samples were tested at the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down and confirmed to be Novichok.

'Following the detailed analysis of these samples, we can confirm that the man and woman have been exposed to the nerve agent Novichok, which has been identified as the same nerve agent that contaminated both Yulia and Sergei Skripal,' he said.

What is the Novichok nerve agent used against the Skripals?

The Novichok nerve agent used against former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia is among the most deadly poisons ever created.

They were secretly developed by the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold war in the 1970s and 1980s.

Communist scientists developed the poison so it would not be able to be detected by Nato's chemical detection equipment.

They come in the form of an ultra-fine powder, Novichok is up to eight times more potent than the deadly VX gas.

Victims who are poisoned by the powder suffer muscle spasms, breathing problems and then cardiac arrest.

There is a known antidote to the nerve agent – atropine can block the poison.

But doctors find it very tricky to administer the antidote because the dose would have to be so high it could prove fatal for the person.

Novichok poisons are highly dangerous to handle, requiring the expertise of skilled scientists in a sophisticated lab.

Dr Vil Mirzayanov, former Chief of the Foreign Technical Counterintelligence Department at Russia's premiere, was among the team of scientists who helped develop the agent.

In an article about the lethal weapon, he wrote: 'They are extremely dangerous – most likely lethal – for people who would try to synthesise or manipulate them without the help of highly experienced scientists and engineers in special laboratory installations observing extreme safety measures.

'Without exception, Novichok weapons cannot be used for any reason without specially trained military personnel under medical supervision.'

'The latest update we have from the hospital is that both patients remain in a critical condition. Both are British nationals and are local to the area. Officers are still working to identify their next of kin.

'The priority for the investigation team now, is to establish how these two people have come into contact with this nerve agent.'

ASCO Basu said no-one else had presented with the same symptoms so far.

'I do want to reassure the public, however, that there is no evidence that either the man or woman recently visited any of the sites that were decontaminated following the attempted murders of Sergei and Yulia Skripal,' he said.

Initially police believed the pair, understood to be recreational drug users, had come into contact with a contaminated batch of Class A drugs.

But on Wednesday a major incident was declared after it emerged the substance could be poison – with Scotland Yard and the Ministry of Defence drafted in to help investigate.

Wiltshire Police said it was 'open-minded' about the cause and said it was not clear whether a crime had been committed.

ASCO Basu said police presence would be beefed up in Salisbury and Amesbury similar to how it was when the Skripals were attacked.

Officers would be wearing protective clothing and testing various sites – likely the ones already cordoned off – but this was just a precaution.

'This is a precautionary, but necessary measure that allows officers to safely carry out meticulous and systematic searches for evidence to support the investigation,' he said.

'This must be done with great care as you will appreciate, to ensure there is no outstanding risk to both those brave officers and the public.'

ASCO Basu said he understood there would be speculation that the two poisonings were linked but the

'complex' investigation into the Skripals' attempted murders was still ongoing.

'Detectives continue to sift through and assess all the available evidence and are following every possible lead to identify those responsible, for what remains a reckless and barbaric criminal act,' he said.

'We are not in a position to say whether the nerve agent was from the same batch that the Skripals were exposed to. The possibility that these two investigations might be linked is clearly a line of enquiry for us.

'It is important, however, that the investigation is led by the evidence available and the facts alone and we don't make any assumptions.'

He said Public Health England said, based on the number of casualties affected, it was not believed that there was a significant health risk to the wider public from either poisoning.

England's chief medical officer Dame Sally Davies told residents not to be alarmed, even if they had visited the areas now cordoned off since the couple were exposed.

'My advice for any individual that may have been in any of the areas now cordoned off from 10pm on Friday evening onwards is highly precautionary,' she said.

'As before my advice is to wash your clothes and wipe down any personal items, shoes and bags with cleansing and baby wipes before disposing of them in the usual way.

'This is the same public health advice I gave during the previous incident, but now as a belt and braces approach.

'I should also warn the public to be careful, as always of picking up any unknown or already dangerous objects such as needles and syringes.

'You do not need to seek advice from a health professional unless you are experiencing symptoms as any individual, who had been significantly exposed at the same time, would by now, have symptoms.'

Family learned about poisoning on the news

The family of Ms Sturgess learned she may have been poisoned with a nerve agent by watching the TV news as they kept a bedside vigil for the mother-of-three since Sunday.

They believed she was suffering from a contaminated batch of drugs, as that was the initial theory of the police before they declared a major incident and began locking down the town.

Her father Stephen, 65, said police left them in the dark about what happened, leaving them to learn the case developments on Sky News.

'We haven't heard from the police. We heard from the hospital on Sunday and we gave them Dawn's GP details but we didn't hear anything from the police,' he told The Times.

'We found out about all this on the TV this morning, about it being a major incident. We know as much as the next

person in the street. We actually called the police station for information.'

Wiltshire police said: 'Based on the information we had available at the time, we followed our policies regarding the notification of next of kin.'

Neighbour Amy Ireland, 32, said the estate was packed with firemen, police and paramedics on Saturday. 'There was a huge commotion. Cordons were set up and people were being moved back,' she said. 'People thought it was a gas leak at first.'

Mrs Sturgess's cousin, 31-year-old Ross Hewitt, said she was in an induced coma after suffering a seizure and a heart attack.

'She has never had seizures before. It was out of the blue. Her partner, shortly after the call that she made to the medical services, also suffered a seizure and a heart attack which was a bit weird,' he said.

On Saturday, Amesbury Baptist Church held a family fun day event on the village green of Raleigh Crescent. It is believed the couple could have been among the 200 guests.

Roy Collins, secretary at Amesbury Baptist Church, told MailOnline they were 'shocked' to learn of the news and even more surprised that their place of worship was cordoned off.

Mr Collins said around 200 people attended the community event, including many families and children, which the couple may have attended, but 'nobody else had suffered any ill-effects'.

'It was a beautiful, sunny day and it was a glorious event, there was nothing going on that was nefarious. This is a real surprise and shock to us – we do continue to keep the couple in our prayers.'

A neighbour who lives in the same block of flats as the couple described how he saw each of them being stretchered from their flat into waiting ambulances.

The man in his 30s, who did not want to be named, said they were 'lovely people'.

Speaking through the window of his ground floor flat, which is inside the police cordon in Muggleton Road, he said: 'It was about 10.30am on Saturday, when I saw Dawn being taken out on a stretcher.

'Then later that evening, Charlie was also taken out and put into an ambulance. There were lots of emergency vehicles about and we were all told to stay in our homes.

'Charlie and Dawn haven't been living at the flat long at all, and I've only met them a couple of times but they seem like lovely people. They seem decent.'

Residents living near Muggleton Road said they were initially told the evacuation was down to a gas leak.

Mayor of Amesbury, Councillor Margaret Strange, on Wednesday night visited the estate to 'reassure residents' and read a statement.

'I'm here because I just want to be some kind of reassurance to the residents,' said said outside the flat where the couple collapsed.

'There are quite a number of residents on this estate and many of them are children and rumours go flying around.

'The council just want to reassure them that at the moment it is considered safe to move around and if we all go along as calmly as we can this will hopefully resolve itself quickly.

'I am here because I represent the town and I want us to keep as calm as we can and go about our daily business as best as we can. People should keep as calm as they can and when we know something we will tell them.'

Nerve agent victim Yulia Skripal 'intends to soon return to Russia' despite Putin being blamed for her poisoning

By Will Stewart In Moscow for MailOnline

Yulia Skripal has sensationally indicated she intends 'soon' to return to Russia, according to a Moscow newspaper.

The 34-year-old victim of nerve agent poisoning in Salisbury recently spoke by phone to a friend and a relative in her home country, it was claimed.

Her reported desire to return to her homeland – which could not be independently verified – comes despite Theresa May directly blaming Russia for the poisoning.

Moscow strenuously denies poisoning Yulia and her ex-spy father Sergei Skripal four months ago.

Yulia called a woman named only as Diana who is renovating her flat in Moscow and told her 'she was doing well and that she was due to come to Russia soon', Moskovsky Komsomolets (MK) newspaper reported.

She also 'gave a special order' not to allow her own cousin Viktoria Skripal, 45, access to her flat, the woman was quoted as saying.

The report further claimed Yulia met a close Russian friend called Gulnara in London.

Gulnara was interviewed and exonerated by Scotland Yard after she brought a package of buckwheat from Russia to London around the time the Skripals were poisoned.

She has been 'in constant touch' with Stepan Vikeev, 30, Yulia's mysterious boyfriend who has vanished since the poisoning, MK claimed.

Vikeev was reported to have had connections to the FSB security service.

It is unclear from MK if Yulia has been in direct contact with Vikeev since the poisoning.

The newspaper claimed he initially had a 'mental breakdown' after she was poisoning, and he then disappeared.

It stated his 'desire to go below the parapet can mean only one thing, that Stepan holds some information.

'And it is quite possible that Russian special services had used him as a way of monitoring the English life of Sergey Skripal (considered a traitor in his homeland),

because quite likely Yulia was sharing certain details about it with Stepan.

'There is also another version, that Stepan is so scared for his reputation that he wants to be as far away as possible from the scandalous family.'

Vikeev's mother Tatiana – also reportedly with links to the FSB – took her son to Sochi to recuperate for three weeks, and later he stayed out of sight with a business trip to the Arctic, it was claimed.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reported Yulia called her cousin Viktoria 'several days ago' and demanded she stop interfering in her life.

Viktoria has led a campaign with support of other family members to visit Yulia and Sergei in Britain, and to demand the UK authorities give more information about their health and the conditions in which they are living in a reported 'safe house'.

Britain has repeatedly refused to issue Viktoria a visa.

The paper quotes Yulia in an extraordinary telephone blast at her cousin.

'This is Yulia Skripal, if you remember me,' she is reported to have said.

'I am calling to say that you acted in a disgusting way. We did not allow you to meddle into this situation.

'Neither my flat, nor my car, or my dog have anything to do with you. I am assisting my father and working on my own recovery.'

Yulia attacked Viktoria for her earlier remarks that the poisoning victim's voice in a video statement suggested she was not speaking freely, and could have been under British influence.

'How is that any of your business what tone I used to speak in my video message?' she said.

'I can't come back now because you go on (Russian) talk shows, and you made all this a public affair. Please stop meddling with this story.

Viktoria is devastated by the verbal attack from her cousin, which she tonight confirmed to MailOnline.

'I am shocked and stunned as are the rest of our family,' she said.

She had been trying to help Yulia by launching her campaign, and Yulia indicated she was speaking with her father's knowledge, Viktoria said.

But Viktoria said she remained 'saddened and upset' as to why Sergei has not contacted his beloved 89 year old mother Yelena, even though his health has reportedly improved since he regained consciousness after the novichok attack.

Viktoria is the mother's long-time carer at her home in Yaroslavl.

She said Yulia had not asked in their phone conversation about the her grandmother's health.

Yulia has rejected help from the Russian embassy in London, according to her public statement.

The investigation comes four months after the chemical weapon attack on the Skripals sparked an international outcry.

The British Government accused the Kremlin of coordinating the attempted hit years after Mr Skripal, 67, arrived in the UK in a spy swap.

Investigators believe the Novichok nerve agent was smeared on their front door and the Skripals unwittingly contaminated swathes of Salisbury.

The father and daughter spent weeks in hospital before being released. They are now living in secret locations under new identities and police guard.

## **Police: Nerve Agent Leaves Couple In Critical Condition Near Site Of UK Spy Attack**

By Jane Onyanga-Omara And Mike James

[USA Today](#), July 4, 2018

LONDON — British police declared a major incident Wednesday after a man and a woman were exposed to a nerve agent close to the city of Salisbury, where a Russian former spy and his daughter were poisoned with the same chemical four months ago.

Emergency services were called to the town of Amesbury in Wiltshire county in southern England, after the pair, both in their 40s, were found unconscious in a property Saturday evening.

Police said the two were initially thought to have used heroin or crack cocaine from a contaminated batch of drugs. After more tests, police said the pair were exposed to nerve agent Novichok, the same material used on ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia on March 4.

"This evening we have received test results . . . that show the two people have been exposed to the nerve agent Novichok," Neil Basu, Head of UK Counter Terrorism Policing, said in a statement. "The latest update we have from the hospital is that both patients remain in a critical condition. Both are British nationals and are local to the area. Officers are still working to identify their next of kin."

Basu said that although the latest victims were poisoned with Novichok, it remains unclear as to whether it is the same batch of the chemical that was used on the Skripals.

"The priority for the investigation team now, is to establish how these two people have come into contact with this nerve agent," said Basu, noting that counter-terrorism officials have taken over the investigation.

Sergei Skripal, 66, and Yulia, 33, were found unresponsive on a bench about 10 miles away in Salisbury. British authorities say they are looking for any common links

between the Skripals and the latest couple to fall ill, including places that they all may have visited.

"I do want to reassure the public, however, that there is no evidence that either the man or woman recently visited any of the sites that were decontaminated following the attempted murders of Sergei and Yulia Skripal," Basu said.

More: Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal discharged from hospital after poisoning

Related: Yulia Skripal says nerve agent recovery slow and painful

The places the Amesbury pair — whose identities weren't immediately released — frequented before they became ill have been cordoned off in Amesbury and Salisbury as a precaution and police patrols have increased. The Sun newspaper in Britain reported that they are not known to have any links to Russia or security services.

Public health officials said there is not believed to be a significant health risk to the public, but this "will be continually assessed as further information becomes known."

More: Who is Sergei Skripal? Russian spy found unconscious in English park sparks intrigue

Britain says the Skripals were poisoned with Novichok nerve agent and blames Russia. The Kremlin denies any responsibility. Sergei Skripal was jailed in Russia in 2006 for passing state secrets to Britain. He was released as part of a spy swap in 2010 and moved to Salisbury.

That poisoning incident has soured relations between Russia and many British allies including the expulsion of hundreds of diplomats on both sides.

Yulia was discharged from Salisbury District Hospital in April and her father was discharged from the same hospital in May. Both were taken to an undisclosed location for their protection.

"The complex investigation into the attempted murders of Yulia and Sergei remains ongoing and detectives continue to sift through and assess all the available evidence and are following every possible lead to identify those responsible, for what remains a reckless and barbaric criminal act," British counter-terrorism officials said in a statement.

## **Police Fear Wiltshire Couple Have Been Exposed To Nerve Agent**

**Dawn Sturgess and Charlie Rowley in critical condition as Porton Down runs tests**

By Steven Morris In Amesbury, Caroline Bannock In Salisbury, Vikram Dodd And Sarah Marsh

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#), July 4, 2018

Scientists at the government's Porton Down defence laboratory were carrying out tests on Wednesday night to try to establish if a couple had been exposed to a nerve agent in Wiltshire.

A park in Salisbury five minutes' walk from the bench where the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia collapsed after a suspected Russian attack employing a nerve agent was one of at least seven areas cordoned off in the cathedral city and the nearby town of Amesbury.

Counter-terrorism officers joined the investigation into the incident, which was initially treated as a drugs issue. In Whitehall government officials held meetings of the Cobra committee to discuss developments.

Some friends and neighbours of the couple, British nationals Dawn Sturgess, 44, from Salisbury, and Charlie Rowley, 45, of Amesbury, said they believed they had been exposed to a nerve agent. They remained critically ill at the Salisbury district hospital, where the Skripals were treated after being exposed to the nerve agent novichok.

The pair were in Queen Elizabeth Park, in Salisbury, the night before they fell ill, leading to speculation that they could have come into contact with residue of the novichok used in the Skripal attack. Police sources dismissed as speculation one theory that the Skripal nerve agent could have been prepared in the park ahead of the attack.

At a press conference in Amesbury, near Stonehenge, deputy chief constable Paul Mills said that when the couple fell ill on Saturday it was initially believed they had been using drugs, possibly from a contaminated batch.

But a major incident involving 12 agencies was announced in the early hours on Wednesday when health officials and police became alarmed at the couple's symptoms and were unable to pinpoint the cause.

Mills said: "Further testing is now ongoing to establish the substance which led to these patients becoming ill. At this stage it is not yet clear if a crime has been committed. We are keeping an open mind as to the circumstances."

He explained that, based on the number of casualties affected, it was not believed there was a significant health risk to the wider public. "It is really important to stress that this will be continually assessed as further information comes to light. At this time no one else is receiving treatment as a result of this incident." A hotline has been set up for anyone who is concerned.

Sam Hobson, 29, a friend of the couple, said he believed they had been struck down by a nerve agent. He said Sturgess fell ill on Saturday morning, and later that day Rowley also became sick. He said both were in hospital in isolation and he was receiving regular calls from the authorities to check that he was well. "They thought it was drugs at first. They now think it's a nerve agent," he said.

Hobson, a mechanic, said he was in Salisbury with the couple on Friday evening in locations close to some of the places associated with the Skripal case. He said he and the couple spent time in "Lizzy Gardens" – Queen Elizabeth

Gardens – close to the river on Friday. "We were having a drink and chilling in the sun," he said.

They visited a number of shops, including a Boots chemist store to find red, white and blue dye for their hair to show support for the England football team, as well as a mobile phone shop and a store to buy alcohol. They bought food and visited a charity shop to purchase a blanket to sit on.

Hobson said he visited Rowley's home in Muggleston Road, Amesbury, on Saturday morning. Sturgess, who lives in Salisbury, had spent the night there. "I saw lots of ambulances and Dawn got taken out on a stretcher. She needed to be helped with her breathing," Hobson said. Rowley came out in tears. "They said she needed to have a brain scan."

After she was taken to hospital, Hobson and Rowley went to a Boots in Amesbury. Later they attended a free hog roast organised by the local baptist church on a green.

Hobson said: "We went back to his place after the hog roast. We were going up to the hospital. Then he started sweating. His T-shirt was soaking wet. He got up and started rocking against the wall. His eyes were wide open and red, his pupils were like pinpricks. He began garbling incoherently and I could tell he was hallucinating. He was making weird noises and acting like a zombie. I phoned an ambulance. At first they thought it was drugs but ... they know now it isn't drugs."

He said the couple had been together for a few months and neither worked. Hobson said they were both parents.

The areas known to have been sealed off in the operation were: Rowley's home on Muggleston Road, Amesbury; the Amesbury Baptist Centre, Butterfield Drive, Amesbury; Raleigh Garden Green, Amesbury, where the hog roast took place; Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Salisbury; Sturgess's room at John Baker House, Rolleston Street, Salisbury; a bin outside Sturgess's home; Boots, Stonehenge Walk, Amesbury.

As in the early days of the Skripal incident in March this year the government was cautious. Theresa May's spokesman said on Wednesday: "This is an incident which understandably is being treated with the utmost seriousness."

A spokesperson for Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command said: "As Wiltshire police have stated they are keeping an open mind as to the circumstances surrounding the incident."

The counter-terrorism officers who have joined the investigation will have expertise in issues to do with nerve agents and other military-grade weapons, as well as the necessary security clearances to work with intelligence agencies.

Neighbours of Rowley expressed alarm at the incident. Amy Ireland, 32, said the estate was packed with firefighters, police and paramedics on Saturday. "We were on our way

back from my 10-year-old son's football presentation. There was a huge commotion. Cordons were set up and people were being moved back," she said. "People thought it was a gas leak at first. Now we don't know what to think. It's very worrying. My son plays out here on the green. First Salisbury, now this."

Another neighbour, Jake Murphy, said he had moved to Amesbury from Salisbury for the quiet life. "And then this happens. There are all sorts of rumours floating about that it's to do with the Russians. But I don't know if that's right."

Sergei and Yulia Skripal spent weeks in Salisbury district hospital where they were treated for suspected exposure to the Russian-created nerve agent novichok. The British government has accused Moscow of being behind the attack on them.

## **Two Britons Poisoned With Novichok Nerve Agent Near Where Russian Spy Was Struck Down**

By Henry Nicholls  
[Reuters](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Two People Poisoned By Same Nerve Agent Used On Ex-spy, Police Say**

By Samantha Beech, Emanuella Grinberg And Laura Smith-Spark  
[CNN](#), July 3, 2018

London (CNN)Two people found unconscious in southern England on Saturday were exposed to the same nerve agent used to attack an ex-Russian spy in March, London Metropolitan Police said Wednesday.

The pair remain in critical condition in Salisbury District Hospital, the same hospital where former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter were treated after they were exposed to Novichok, a military-grade nerve agent. The UK government suspects the Skripals were victims of a Russian attack.

The UK's National Counter Terrorism Policing Network is leading the investigation. Officers are investigating the possibility of a connection between the two attacks, said Neil Basu, Assistant Commissioner for Counter Terrorism at London Metropolitan Police. But no evidence so far suggests the couple was specifically targeted, he said.

"I don't have any intelligence or evidence that they were targeted in any way. There is nothing in their background to suggest that at all," Basu said.

"We are not in a position to say whether the nerve agent was from the same batch that the Skripals were

exposed to. The possibility that these two investigations might be linked is clearly a line of inquiry for us."

What we know about the victims

Paramedics were called to an address on Muggleton Road in Amesbury the morning of June 30 after a woman collapsed at the property, Wiltshire Police Deputy Chief Constable Paul Mills told reporters earlier Wednesday. They were called back later the same day after reports that a man became ill in the same location, he said.

British news agencies identified the two people as Charlie Rowley, 45, and Dawn Sturgess, 44. Sam Hobson, a friend of the pair, confirmed their names in an interview with Agence France-Presse. The two victims are British nationals local to the area, according to police in Wiltshire, the county in which Amesbury is located.

Images of Charles Rowley and Dawn Sturgess from their Facebook accounts.

Wiltshire Police said they were initially believed to have fallen ill after using crack cocaine or heroin from a contaminated batch. On Monday, due to concerns over their symptoms, samples from both patients were sent to a laboratory for analysis.

"Following the detailed analysis of these samples, we can confirm that the man and woman have been exposed to the nerve agent Novichok, which has been identified as the same nerve agent that contaminated both Yulia and Sergei Skripal," Basu said.

'Highly precautionary' measures advised

Authorities have cordoned off several sites in Amesbury and Salisbury that the couple is believed to have visited before they fell ill, Basu said. He warned of an increased police presence in the area, which will include officers wearing protective equipment, similar to the activity earlier this year in the Skripal investigation.

I do want to reassure the public, however, that there is no evidence that either the man or woman recently visited any of the sites that were decontaminated following the attempted murders of Sergei and Yulia Skripal.

Wiltshire Police Chief Constable Kier Pritchard called the increased police presence a "proportionate response to an investigation of this nature and scale."

"I fully appreciate the effect the cordons will have on local people and businesses," he said in a statement. "Please let me reassure you that my officers and staff, partner agencies and our colleagues at the Counter Terrorism Policing network will do all we can to progress this investigation and help return the communities of Amesbury and Salisbury back to normality."

A police officer stands outside the Amesbury Baptist Church in Wiltshire.

Affected sites include Amesbury Baptist Church, which had police standing guard at the entrance on Tuesday. Church secretary Ray Collins told CNN he believed the

victims attended a family fun day at the church on Saturday, though he did not know who the pair were. A Boots pharmacy in Amesbury was cordoned off, along with the Queen Elizabeth Gardens, the John Baker House in Salisbury, a supported living facility, and the Muggleton Road property in Amesbury, according to Wilshire Police.

As a “highly precautionary measure,” Public Health England South West advised anyone who had visited those sites from 10 p.m. on June 29th to 6:30 p.m. on June 30 to do the following:

- Wash the clothing they were wearing in an ordinary washing machine just as they would any other items.
- Wipe personal items such as phones, handbags and other electronic items with cleansing or baby wipes and dispose of the wipes in an ordinary domestic waste disposal.
- Hand wash with warm water and detergent any items that cannot go in the washing machine or be cleaned with wipes, such as jewelery and accessories, and rinse with clean cold water.

Salisbury District Hospital is open as usual and is advising people still to attend routine appointments unless they are contacted to state otherwise.

“Our current advice, based on the small number of casualties affected, is that there is no significant health risk to the wider public. We will keep this assessment under constant review as further information becomes known,” said Mike Wade, Deputy Director of Health Protection for PHE South West.

Fallout from Skripal attack

The March incident in Salisbury sparked a diplomatic dispute between the UK and Russia after British investigators blamed Moscow for the attack.

JUST WATCHED What is Novichok and how does it kill?

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What is Novichok and how does it kill? 01:34

Russia has denied the allegations, but more than 20 other countries kicked Russian diplomats out of their countries in a show of support for the UK.

Sergei and Yulia Skripal have since been discharged from the hospital.

CNN's Samantha Beech reported from Atlanta. Laura Smith-Spark and Sheena McKenzie wrote from London and Emanuella Grinberg wrote from Atlanta. CNN's Lindsay Isaac, Seb Shukla, Hilary McGann, Simon Cullen and Joshua Berlinger contributed to this report.

## Two Critically Poisoned By Same Nerve Agent Used In Sergei Skripal Attack, Police Say

[NBC News](#), July 4, 2018

LONDON — Tests on two Britons found unconscious in their home determined that they were poisoned by the same nerve agent used against a former Russian spy and his daughter earlier this year, British police said Wednesday.

The discovery triggered new security precautions in the area of Amesbury, England, where the couple were sickened. The town is seven miles from Salisbury, where former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter were poisoned with the military-grade nerve agent Novichok in March. The British government blamed Russia for the attack. Moscow has repeatedly denied any involvement.

Friends and investigators identified the victims as Dawn Sturgess, 44, and Charlie Rowley, 45, who remained in critical condition. Police said Britain's Counter Terrorism Policing Network had taken over the investigation.

Authorities acknowledged that the test results would fuel speculation on whether the two poisoning incidents are linked.

“However, I must say that we are not in a position to say whether the nerve agent was from the same batch that the Skripals were exposed to,” Neil Basu, assistant commissioner of specialist operations for London Metropolitan Police, said in a statement. “The possibility that these two investigations might be linked is clearly a line of inquiry for us.”

Burgess and Rowley were found unconscious at separate times in the same home on Saturday. Investigators initially suspected that they had overdosed on heroin or cocaine, but after observing their symptoms — police didn't describe them — authorities took samples for lab testing. Those tests came back positive for Novichok, Basu said.

He added that no one else had reported falling ill with similar symptoms.

Investigators are now focusing on how and where Burgess and Rowley came into contact with Novichok, Basu said.

As a “precautionary measure,” police cordoned off sites in the Amesbury and Salisbury areas that they believe the two visited just before they were sickened, Basu said.

“I do want to reassure the public, however, that there is no evidence that either the man or woman recently visited any of the sites that were decontaminated following the attempted murders of Sergei and Yulia Skripal,” Basu said.

In Salisbury, a supported housing complex for the homeless was cordoned off 840 feet from Zizzi's, the restaurant the Skripals dined at the evening they were poisoned. So too was Queen Elizabeth Gardens — a park just 1,300 feet from the location the Skripals were found collapsed.

Amesbury is about five miles from Stonehenge, the prehistoric monument visited by more than a million people annually.

Salisbury District Hospital, where the pair are receiving treatment and where the Skripals were treated in the aftermath of the March attack, remained open as normal on Wednesday.

Francis Whittaker reported from London. Jon Schuppe reported from New York.

## **Islamic State Says Leader's Son Killed In Syria**

By Sarah El Deeb

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group says the son of its top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been killed fighting Syrian government forces.

The announcement of the death of the al-Baghdadi's young son appeared on the group's social media accounts late Tuesday. It included a picture of a young boy carrying a rifle and identified him as Huthaifa al-Badri.

The statement, dated this month, said he was an elite fighter, known as an "inghimasi," who was killed while fighting Syrian and Russian troops at a power station in the central Homs province. It did not specify when he was killed.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group, said the most recent IS operations in the area were in the first two weeks of June.

Al-Baghdadi has been reported killed or wounded on a number of occasions but is widely believed to still be alive. Little is known about al-Baghdadi's family, but a woman and a child who were said to be his wife and daughter were detained in Lebanon in 2014.

IS has been driven from nearly all the territory it once controlled in Syria and Iraq, though it still maintains a presence in the Syrian desert and remote areas along the Syria-Iraq border.

In other developments, the Observatory said late Tuesday that one of the group's last pockets in the eastern Syrian province of Deir el-Zour came under intense shelling from the U.S.-led coalition. At least 12 militants are believed to have been killed in Hajin, the group said.

Separately, the Observatory said at least 11 displaced Syrians fleeing the fighting in southwestern Syria were killed when they stepped on a land mine. The two-week long offensive in Daraa province has so far displaced up to 330,000 people, including some 60,000 that have fled toward the sealed border with Jordan, the U.N. said Tuesday.

"The situation of internally displaced people at the Jordanian border is precarious, aggravated by dusty desert winds and high temperatures of up to 45 degrees Celsius," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Tuesday.

He said at least 12 children, two women, and one elderly man died in areas close to the Jordanian border due to scorpion bites, dehydration and water-borne diseases.

The top U.N. humanitarian official in Jordan, Anders Pedersen, said Wednesday that delays in the humanitarian

response could lead to "catastrophic results," warning that the fighting threatens to displace even more people.

Jordan, which is already hosting at least 660,000 Syrian refugees, has resisted pressure to open the border, saying it cannot take in any more.

The offensive in southwestern Syria has shattered a yearlong truce brokered by Russia, the United States and Jordan. It has also alarmed Israel, which occupies the nearby Golan Heights and has warned against any Iranian military presence on its doorstep.

Iran has sent military advisers to Syria, and Iran-backed militias fight alongside President Bashar Assad's forces.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who held talks with his Jordanian counterpart on Wednesday, said it would be "absolutely unrealistic" to expect Iran to withdraw from Syria. He said regional powers should discuss mutual complaints and negotiate a compromise.

The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV, which supports Assad's government, meanwhile broadcast images of a large arsenal and armored vehicles it said the Syrian forces have seized from rebel fighters in the southwest. The network said the weapons included Israeli and U.S.-made arms and communication devices.

The Observatory said the last round of talks with Russian mediators to reach a truce in Daraa have faltered, threatening a relative calm that prevailed for days.

The talks collapsed on Wednesday because Russia wanted the Syrian rebels to hand in their heavy weapons in a surrender deal that would restore government control over Daraa, the Observatory said.

The opposition had also demanded safe passage to opposition-held northern Syria, a request denied by Russia, according to other activists.

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## **Public Enemy Or Savior? An Iraqi City Could Reveal The True Moqtada Al-Sadr**

By Tamer El-Ghobashy And Mustafa Salim

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

SAMARRA, Iraq — At the main checkpoint outside this central Iraqi city, where regular army soldiers and police are joined by militiamen commanded by Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr — a onetime battlefield foe of American forces — it is the flags of Sadr's militia that fly most prominently.

While the city's checkpoints are supposed to be jointly operated, it is clear who is in charge. Sadr's militiamen do all the talking, quizzing drivers about their destinations, while the regular security forces sit idly on the side.

Sadr's 12,000 armed followers protect — even dominate — this city, ensuring peace in a place that is

overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim but is home to one of the world's holiest Shiite shrines. The militia's role in Samarra reflects Sadr's evolution from public enemy to enforcer of order and provides potent clues to how he will play his new part in ruling Iraq.

In May, Sadr's ticket won an unexpected victory in Iraq's national elections after running on a platform of eradicating sectarianism, fighting corruption and sidelining both American and Iranian influence in the country.

Though he is not seeking to become prime minister himself, Sadr has emerged as the likely kingmaker. With his ticket winning the most parliamentary seats of any party, he is in a strong position to shape Iraq's next government and select the nation's leader.

His electoral victory was the latest surprise from the 44-year-old cleric. During the U.S. occupation of Iraq, his militia, then known as the Mahdi Army, fought fierce battles with U.S. troops, making him an outlaw to Americans and a revolutionary to his large and loyal base. In the following years, his militia fueled a blood-soaked sectarian war that deeply divided the nation. After a brief exile from public life, Sadr returned after the rise of the Islamic State, rebranding himself as an advocate for Iraq's sovereignty.

Sadr's transformation, coupled with his win at the polls, has led to head-scratching in Baghdad, Washington and Tehran: Who is the real Moqtada al-Sadr?

"There is a genuine confusion over whether he is the future of Iraq or simply a relic of its recent past, wearing a mask," said a Western diplomat who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations among Iraq's domestic and foreign power brokers.

The performance of his militia, now known as the Peace Brigades, suggests Sadr has genuinely shed his earlier sectarianism and is committed to healing the Sunni-Shiite wounds that have corroded Iraq's society and security.

But the brigades' conduct in Samarra also shows that he may not have been so fast to relinquish his autocratic tendencies and still retains a taste for subordinating Iraq's laws to his own rule.

Samarra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a city rich with medieval artifacts from the Sunni Abbasid reign and the final resting place of two of Shiite Islam's revered imams.

Along its boulevards, Sadr's image is ubiquitous on posters and billboards. He is depicted as a military commander, graying and portly in combat fatigues and a camouflage cap, unlike in Baghdad and the Shiite heartland farther south, where he is most often represented as a pious cleric clad in a traditional black turban and robe. The posters in Samarra bear the logo of the Peace Brigades, a silhouetted fighter triumphantly holding an Iraqi flag, a rifle slung over his shoulder, next to a white dove in flight and the motto: "We bow to no one but God."

A decade ago, the city was at the epicenter of a ruinous civil war. Suspected al-Qaeda militants had bombed the golden-domed al-Askari mosque sacred to Shiites, sparking a years-long sectarian conflict throughout the country.

Sadr, who was leading a populist Shiite revival in Iraq's south, publicly called for unity. But in reality, his Mahdi Army became a central player in the revenge killings, employing death squads in Baghdad and operating prisons far outside the control of the central government. His militia was also implicated in running protection rackets and shaking down small and large businesses alike.

After the rise of the Islamic State, which conquered more than a third of Iraq's territory, the Mahdi Army was reborn as the Peace Brigades. Sadr ordered his fighters to Samarra in 2014, and they deployed quickly, beating back the militants who had surrounded it as nearby cities fell to the Islamic State.

The new Sadrist fighters were warily accepted by the Sunni population and by commanders of Iraq's army, which had crumbled in the face of the Islamic State blitz.

"We came to secure the holy shrines, return the people to their homes and gain their cooperation and trust. That has been our biggest success," Majid Hamid, the deputy commander of the brigades in Samarra, said in an interview.

Hamid, who sports a neat beard, olive fatigues and a 9mm Glock pistol on his waist, said he is proud of his membership in the Mahdi Army but insists that the Peace Brigades are different — despite drawing many of the same fighters.

"The Mahdi Army fought the Americans because they were occupiers," he explained. "The Peace Brigades fights the Islamic State who are criminals."

In other Iraqi cities, Shiite militias that mustered in response to the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State often abused the local Sunni populations. But in Samarra, the deployment of Sadr's Peace Brigades helped ensure that the city remained prosperous and secure for its 300,000 Sunni residents.

"At first, we were afraid because we used to hear that the Mahdi Army were conducting massive killing against the Sunnis," said Mahdi al-Bazzi, a 53-year-old teacher in Samarra. "The Peace Brigades who came in changed this idea because they defended the city and kept it safe."

Bazzi said the heavily armed presence provides a sense of security that was missing when government forces patrolled the streets.

Mahmoud Khalaf, Samarra's mayor since 2005, credited the brigades with facilitating the return of residents who had fled the Islamic State threat. In other cities, Shiite militias stand accused of expelling or killing Sunnis. "It doesn't benefit any side to have a hostile relationship with the city's people," Khalaf said. "The Peace Brigades understood that."

Sadr's militiamen have also sought to build bridges to the community by restoring the city's electricity lines and water networks; they have sent delegations to celebrate local weddings and to console mourners at funerals. And, Khalaf said, the Peace Brigades have effectively policed themselves, immediately punishing members who were accused of looting shops, stealing civilian vehicles or acting imperiously.

Iraqi army Brig. Gen. Firas Sami once fought against the Mahdi Army. He now works with Sadr's militiamen on security operations.

"The Mahdi Army were criminals, thieves and killers," he said. "When they changed their name to the Peace Brigades, they changed everything with it. They are very disciplined and respect the law."

Many military and government officials do not share Sami's views. They see the Peace Brigades as an obstacle to bringing Iraq's various armed groups under central government command. Though Sadr says he wants a strong Iraqi state where all weapons are in the hands of the government, a senior provincial official said the brigades have become "a state within the state."

The militia's vehicles bear license plates marked with "The Peace Brigades" rather than the province where the vehicles are registered. The militia has ordered, unlike in other cities, that outsiders be sponsored by a local resident to enter Samarra and must leave their government identification at the checkpoint until they depart.

"They are a stifling presence in the city, controlling everyone's movements, and the police and army are subordinate to them," said the provincial official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisals by Sadr's forces.

Local restaurant owners dutifully turn their televisions to the Sadrist news channel when the rowdy militiamen, some wearing long beards and others wearing more fashionable pompadour hairstyles, stop in.

"They are behaving like a police state, and this shows their true intentions," the official said.

Since the militia entered Samarra, more than 1,000 residents have been taken into custody by "unknown" groups with no word on their fate, a senior city official said. He said that the national government is investigating the disappearances and that Peace Brigade militiamen are the leading suspects.

Many city residents refused to talk about the brigades, saying they fear punishment for being critical of the group.

"I don't trust them. I want them to leave the city and be replaced by government forces, because right now their authority is bigger than the state authority," said a 25-year-old shopkeeper who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Hamid, the Peace Brigades commander, said the strict procedures imposed in Samarra are the sole reason the city has not suffered a major terrorist attack since 2014. A native

of Iraq's Shiite south, Hamid said he cannot wait to return home once a strong Iraqi government presence is established in Samarra. He said that once Sadr calls on the brigades to demobilize, they will "do it in that minute, in that hour."

Dhiaa al-Asadi, Sadr's top political adviser, agreed that the brigades' 50,000 active-duty fighters around the country and additional 250,000 reservists are ready to disarm and noted Sadr's call that a small number of independent militiamen be absorbed into the national army and police.

But Sadr has sent a conflicting signal, recently announcing that he would enter a governing coalition with Shiite militia figures seeking to remain independent from Iraq's security forces. Still, Asadi said Sadr's evolution is sincere and augurs a strong Iraq defined by rule of law and an independent foreign policy.

"This is a very natural development from one stage to another . . . and all the principles that he adopts now are genuine," he said of Sadr. "It means that he believes in and he's adopted and embraced the democratic principles and procedures."

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Reserved Trump Celebrates Two Passions: Military And Golf**

By Emily Cochrane

[New York Times](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump celebrated the service of military members and the talents of professional golfers on Tuesday in a reserved speech that, but for the presidential seal on the lectern and a few improvised flourishes, offered little deviance from the standard pre-dinner remarks at a signature sporting event.

In remarks at the Salute to Service dinner before a military-themed professional golf tournament this week in West Virginia, Mr. Trump also sprinkled in boasts of the successes of his administration, including the push for what he called "clean coal" and the potential creation of a Space Force, and musings on the significance of the Fourth of July.

But much of the speech was devoted to the current and former service members in the room. "From Bunker Hill to the beaches of Normandy and the jungles of Vietnam, Americans in every generation have given their last breath, their last measure of love," Mr. Trump said, with the flags of the five military branches behind him.

"Now we must fulfill our sacred duty to them," he added, before jumping into a description of his administration's efforts to change veterans' health care and increase military spending. "We must protect those who protect us."

Mr. Trump also spent part of the speech, which lasted for just under a half-hour, admiring the prowess of the handful

of professional golfers in attendance for A Military Tribute at the Greenbrier, the golf tournament set to begin Thursday at the eponymous luxury mountain resort.

Mr. Trump's largely subdued tone was a striking departure from his combustible and freewheeling persona at his rallies — and from the stream of exaggerations, misstatements and falsehoods that had filled his Twitter feed on Tuesday, including a couple of jabs posted en route to the resort. And while it was an unusual presidential excursion out of Washington to the site of a professional sporting tournament with a \$7.3 million prize, it blended two of Mr. Trump's passions: golf and the military.

"It's an honor for me, especially as a golfer," Mr. Trump said, after acknowledging a recipient of the Medal of Honor, a Gold Star widow and a number of professional golfers, including Phil Mickelson and Keegan Bradley.

The event allowed the president to return to a favorite destination and parade his friendship with Gov. Jim Justice of West Virginia, the billionaire coal magnate who publicly embraced Mr. Trump almost a year ago as he switched his party affiliation to Republican from Democrat. Mr. Justice — "Big Jim," Mr. Trump said, as he embellished the governor's 6-foot-7 stature by at least three inches — asked the president to speak at the event, having rebranded the tournament, formerly known as the Greenbrier Classic, with a new focus on the military this year.

A few falsehoods still slipped through, most notably when the president shifted to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency caught in the outcry over Mr. Trump's immigration crackdown.

"When these people come into our country and come in illegally and then disperse throughout the country and all of a sudden you see nests of MS-13, it's like you were liberating towns," Mr. Trump said. "We sent ICE in, and for ICE, it's just another day."

While ICE agents have arrested hundreds of members of the transnational gang, the president has yet to produce evidence of any specific town being ruled by or freed from the gang.

Mr. Trump also said the guests would be "very impressed" with his pick to replace Justice Anthony M. Kennedy on the Supreme Court, which he has given himself until Monday to make.

But, Mr. Trump said to scattered laughter, he would still spend part of the weekend watching the golf competition, and "saying I wish I could play like that."

## **Trump Calls On Americans To Remember 'Unbelievable Heroes' Serving Overseas On July 4**

By S.a. Miller

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump on Tuesday called on Americans to remember the country's military members when celebrating the Fourth of July.

"We will thank God for blessing us with the unbelievable heroes," Mr. Trump said in a speech at the "Salute to Service" dinner at a resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

The president said that this holiday Americans should "think of the men and women serving overseas."

"At this very moment [they are] far away — far, far away from their families, protecting America [and] watching over our people," he said. "They are there and they are with us. And they are brave, these are incredible people."

Mr. Trump delivered the keynote speech at the first annual "Salute to Service" dinner at the Greenbrier, which is hosting a golf tournament as part of a Fourth of July tribute to the military.

In the speech, the president touted the strong economy, increased spending on the military and new laws to improve medical care for military veterans.

Mr. Trump dove into the political battle over immigration, slamming Democrats who want to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

"We want border security. We want security in our country. We respect ICE," he said. "ICE — these are tough people."

He credited ICE officers with removing MS-13 gang members from American cities and towns, which he said was akin to liberating a town in a war.

"Then I hear Democrats saying we are going to abandon ICE. ... We are not abandoning our law enforcement — just the opposite," said Mr. Trump.

## **Trump Touts Progress On Military, Veterans Issues At Armed Forces Charity Dinner**

By Gregg Re

[Fox News](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump touted his administration's accomplishments for the military and veterans at a charity dinner in West Virginia on Tuesday, honoring what the president called the "sweat, blood, and sacrifices" of the armed forces.

The event, on the eve of Independence Day, was a prelude to the rebranded PGA golf tournament "A Military Tribute at the Greenbrier" — and Trump made sure to mention a few of the golf pros in attendance.

"I like Phil, and Phil I think likes me," Trump said, referring to golf legend Phil Mickelson.

The president also heaped praise on "Big Jim" Justice, the governor of the deep-red state who switched parties to become a Republican last year, as well as West Virginia Senate hopeful Patrick Morrisey.

Morrisey, who Trump said had “incredible energy,” pulled off an upset in the Republican primary for Senate earlier this year.

“He went right into the machine gun nests – John Daly wouldn’t do that, and he’s a pretty tough cookie.”

– President Trump

But Trump soon turned to the centerpiece of the event – military families and the White House’s work on their behalf.

The president specifically praised Hershel “Woody” Williams, a “legendary” veteran of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, noting that he had voluntarily charged into machine gun nests to clear a path for U.S. troops.

“He went right into the machine gun nests – John Daly wouldn’t do that, and he’s a pretty tough cookie,” Trump said, noting Daly’s presence in the audience. “John would you do that? I don’t think so. It would definitely hurt your golf game, John. That’s the end of golf.”

Trump noted that his administration has improved medical care for veterans and boosted resources and training for the military.

“We are restoring American security by rebuilding our great military,” Trump said. “We have secured, this year ... a record \$700 billion for our military. And next year, \$716 billion.

“We are building it so big – so powerful, stronger than we’ve ever been,” Trump added. “And hopefully, we’ll never have to use it. As the golfers can tell you, the stronger we get, the less likely it is we will have to use it.”

## **President Trump Honors Veterans During W.Va. Visit**

By WSAZ News Staff

[WSAZ-TV Huntington \(WV\)](#), July 2, 2018

President Donald Trump applauded the U.S. military and recognized the golfing elite Tuesday night during his speech at A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier.

The visit marked Trump’s third visit to West Virginia this year and his fifth visit overall since taking office.

“I love this state,” he said in his opening remarks at the event, which coincides with the annual PGA golf tournament at The Greenbrier.

Trump mentioned multiple PGA pros by name, including Bubba Watson, Phil Mickelson and John Daly.

He also saluted America’s veterans on the eve of the country’s 242nd birthday, including Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams of Ona, West Virginia.

“Anytime we see an American in uniform, anytime we shake the hand of a veteran, we understand how blessed we are,” Trump said.

The president discussed current issues, including his search for a new U.S. Supreme Court justice, the immigration debate, the country’s low unemployment rate and the importance of coal to West Virginia.

He also spoke of more than \$720 billion secured by Congress to boost the American military.

“We are restoring American security by rebuilding our great military,” Trump said, adding that the stronger the armed forces get, the less likely military force will be used.

“We will think of the men and women fighting overseas,” Trump said. “We will thank God for blessing us with these unbelievable heroes.”

The president has arrived in West Virginia for a military event Tuesday evening.

Air Force One landed ahead of schedule, around 5:45 p.m., at the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

This is President Donald Trump’s third visit to West Virginia this year and his fifth visit overall since taking office.

He will attend the Salute to Service Dinner as part of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs.

Trump tweeted from his flight, “Heading to West Virginia to be with my friend, @WVGovernor Jim Justice, at his beautiful Greenbrier Resort. He works hard, does a great job, and raises lots of money for charities!”

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice will welcome the president at the airport and will introduce him at the dinner Tuesday evening.

“I am so excited to welcome my friend President Trump back to West Virginia for the fifth time since he was elected,” Justice said. “Can you believe how many times the President has been to West Virginia recently? This is more evidence that truly West Virginia is moving from 50th to 1st. Additionally, the President’s visit to support our military and celebrate our nation’s birthday is much appreciated by all.”

President Donald Trump is officially on his way to West Virginia for the third time in 2018. This will be the president’s fifth visit since taking office.

Trump boarded Air Force One a little before 5 p.m. Tuesday and was in the air minutes later for his trip to White Sulphur Springs.

We have a crew at the Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg awaiting his arrival as well as team coverage of the event the president will be at Tuesday evening.

President Trump will attend the Salute to Service Dinner as part of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier.

“I am so excited to welcome my friend President Trump back to West Virginia for the fifth time since he was elected,” said West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice. “Can you believe how many times the President has been to West Virginia recently? This is more evidence that truly West Virginia is moving from 50th to 1st. Additionally, the President’s visit to support our military and celebrate our nation’s birthday is much appreciated by all.”

Justice will welcome the president at the airport and will introduce him at the dinner at The Greenbrier.

West Virginia Republican Party (WVGOP) Chairwoman Melody Potter issued a statement Tuesday welcoming the president:

"It's an honor to welcome President Donald Trump back to West Virginia," Potter stated in a press release. "Any day that the Mountain State can host the President of the United States is incredible, but we're especially glad President Trump chose to begin his Fourth of July celebrations with us and pay tribute to America's military service men and women. West Virginians overwhelmingly stand with President Trump in honoring our service men and women and thanking them for their service. They also support President Trump's 'America First' agenda, which has resulted in lower taxes, a robust economy, putting coal miners back to work, and making America safer by defeating ISIS and strengthening our southern border."

President Trump was at The Greenbrier, he was in town to speak at the GOP retreat in February.

Gov. Jim Justice said he is overjoyed to have his friend, President Donald Trump, at The Greenbrier on the eve of the country's independence celebration.

Trump on Tuesday will attend the Salute to Service Dinner at the Greenbrier Resort as part of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier.

Justice released the following statement:

"I am so excited to welcome my friend President Trump back to West Virginia for the fifth time since he was elected. Can you believe how many times the President has been to West Virginia recently? This is more evidence that truly West Virginia is moving from 50th to 1st," Gov. Justice said. "Additionally, the President's visit to support our military and celebrate our nation's birthday is much appreciated by all."

Justice will welcome the president at the airport and will introduce him at the dinner.

President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs Tuesday.

West Virginia State Police Spokesperson Capt. Reggie Patterson confirmed the visit to WSAZ.

President Trump was at The Greenbrier, he was in town to speak at the GOP retreat in February.

The POTUS has made other trips to West Virginia over the last year, including a roundtable at the White Sulphur Springs Civic Center in April of this year to talk about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

President Trump also had a "Make America Great Again" rally in Huntington in August of 2017.

## **'Salute To Service': Trump Honors Iwo Jima Hero, 94, At West Virginia Event**

By Fox News Insider

[Fox News Insider](#), July 3, 2018

President Donald Trump honored a veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima at a "Salute to Service" event in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. Tuesday.

Trump said Hershel "Woody" Williams stormed into enemy grounds on the island, several hundred miles south of Japan, during World War II.

"In February of 1945, he volunteered to dash straight into enemy fire to destroy vital enemy fortifications and clear a path for American forces," Trump said, calling Williams a "legendary hero."

Williams has since devoted his life to helping Gold Star Families, Trump said at the event, about 70 miles northwest of Roanoke, Va.

## **Trump Celebrates World War II Veteran With Playful Jab At Pro Golfer**

By Julia Nista

[Daily Caller](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump recognized a special World War II veteran by making a playful jab at pro golfer John Daly during the Salute to Service dinner in Greenbrier, WV on Tuesday evening.

"So I want to recognize today a legendary hero from West Virginia, a veteran who fought in Iwo Jima. In February of 1945, he volunteered to dash straight into enemy fire to destroy vital enemy fortifications and to clear a path for American forces to continue forward," the president said. "He went right into the machine gun nests. John Daly wouldn't do that and he's a pretty tough guy. John, would you do that? I don't think so."

Trump went on to recognize the accomplishments of the veteran, Woody Williams, who is 94 years old and was previously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"He has dedicated his life to supporting Gold Star families and building memorials to honor our fallen service members. In 2016, thousands were moved by Woody's patriotic words when he spoke at one of our rallies in West Virginia. He was incredible. I still remember it," Trump said.

The president continued, saying Williams is "a national treasure and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

## **Trump Touts Upcoming Supreme Court Pick**

**He said the nominee will be, like his selection of Neil Gorsuch, 'a home run.'**

By Andrew Restuccia

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — President Donald Trump on Tuesday promised that his supporters would love his nominee for the Supreme Court and knocked liberals for calling to abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"I think you're going to be very impressed," Trump said during a dinner for U.S. troops at The Greenbrier resort here.

He praised Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, his first pick for the high court, adding, "We hit a home run there, and we're going to hit a home run here."

Trump interviewed three candidates for the job on Tuesday, bringing the total number of candidates he has interviewed to seven, according to the White House. The new justice will replace the retiring Anthony Kennedy, who had long been regarded as the swing vote on the court. It's not clear whether Trump will interview any more candidates from his previously released list of potential candidates.

Trump is scheduled to announce his Supreme Court nominee on Monday, before next week's trip to Europe.

In a 25-minute speech, the president largely eschewed the bombastic rhetoric that has made headlines since the presidential campaign, delivering a subdued speech peppered with praise for U.S. troops one day before the July 4th holiday.

But Trump couldn't help but mention his favorite new criticism of some Democrats: that some Democrats who have called for abolishing ICE are weak on national security.

He praised ICE for "liberating towns" from illegal immigrants, without specifying how or where this might have occurred.

"These guys, they walk into those areas, they take them out of there so fast, they're not afraid of anything. It's like you're liberating a town, like in a war," Trump said.

He continued, "Then I hear Democrats saying, we want to abandon ICE. We're not abandoning ICE, and we're not abandoning our law enforcement."

Trump and his allies plan on making their defense of ICE a regular part of their talking points. On Monday, the official White House Twitter account took aim at Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) for criticizing ICE, treating that as some implicit endorsement of criminal behavior by illegal immigrants.

"@SenKamalaHarris, why are you supporting the animals of MS-13?" one tweet said. MS-13 is a gang that started in California in the 1980s; many of its members came originally from El Salvador, though a fair number of them are American-born.

Just minutes after the speech, Trump tweeted a jab at critics of his seemingly random Twitter capitalization.

"After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News constantly likes to pore over my tweets looking for a mistake," he wrote. "I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized!"

The tweet was a re-send of an earlier tweet, in which he had misspelled "pore" as "pour."

## On Eve Of Independence Day, Trump Salutes Military And 'Tough' ICE Immigration Agents

By Christal Hayes And David Jackson

[USA Today](#), July 3, 2018

On the eve of Independence Day, President Donald Trump spoke at a "Salute to Service" dinner in West Virginia saluting the military, America's history — and the work of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Trump spent most of his time at the Tuesday dinner, which was held in conjunction with a golf tournament at The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, commemorating the Fourth of July and military service. He honored those who died to keep the nation safe and the founding fathers who created a new Republic.

Trump extolled on the joys of golf before turning political as he spoke of his upcoming Supreme Court pick and the firestorm centered on immigration. He spoke for 26 minutes.

Saying "we want border security," Trump bashed Democrats and shut down those who have called for eliminating or curbing ICE amid of the controversy of separating migrant children from their families.

"We're not abandoning ICE and we're not abandoning our law enforcement," he told the crowd.

Trump said the men and women who work at the agency are "tough people" and compared their job to that of service members during a war.

"It's like you're liberating a town, like in a war. You're liberating a town or an area," Trump said.

Standing in front of flags depicting branches of the military, Trump cited this year's congressional elections in introducing local election officials. They included West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, who is challenging incumbent Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin.

Claiming that "the polls have it very close," Trump told the crowd filled with veterans and professional golfers that "you may be surprised" by how well Morrisey does against Manchin, who did not attend the dinner.

Trump also discussed the economy, rebuilding the military, efforts to improve veterans health care, alleged "fake news," and his proposed "Space Force."

He also teased to Monday's planned announcement of a new Supreme Court justice, telling the crowd his pick will be a "home run." Over the last few days, Trump has interviewed several potential picks, including several women.

The owner of golf resorts also introduced some of the professional players in town for the tournament, including Bubba Watson, Keegan Bradley, John Daly, and Phil Mickelson. He told anecdotes about the golfers, and referred back to them at several points.

Noting that he won West Virginia by more than 40 percentage points in the 2016 election, Trump said, "that's like one of these genius golfers winning by 9."

## Trump In WV: We Won't Abandon ICE Like Democrats Want To

By Michelle Moons

[Breitbart](#), July 3, 2018

President Donald Trump lauded the work of ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), pledging Tuesday evening in West Virginia that the U.S. will not abandon ICE as Democrats want to do.

Trump said ICE and Border Patrol "are doing an unreal job."

"We want border security. We want security in our country. We respect ICE," Trump told the Salute to Service event crowd in White Sulphur Springs.

"These are tough people," the President said of ICE law enforcement. He pointed to the vicious transnational criminal gang MS-13 and others who are illegally in the U.S. because of weak immigration laws.

"All of a sudden you see nests of MS-13," said Trump. He then said that ICE is driving these dangerous gang members out, "It's like you're liberating towns. We send ICE in and for ICE it's just another day."

"These guys, they walk into those areas. they take them outta there so fast. They're not afraid of anything," said Trump.

The President likened their work rooting out these gang members to "Like in a war, you're liberating a town or an area."

"Sometimes they have to go in swinging," Trump said of ICE. "They don't mind. They're tough."

"Then I hear Democrats saying 'we wanna abandon ICE,'" said Trump.

"We're not abandoning ICE. And we're not abandoning our law enforcement. Just the opposite," Trump pledged.

Democrats and leftist activists have been calling for ICE to be abolished. Fear-inducing messages at weekend protests included urging to vote out Republicans and to abolish ICE.

## Trump Likens Immigration Enforcement To 'liberating A Town' In Combat

By Anne Gearan

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

President Trump likened federal immigration enforcement to war on Tuesday, claiming that the work of deporting illegal immigrants is like "liberating a town or an area" in combat.

In a meandering speech meant to honor the active-duty military and veterans, Trump also likened professional golfers to "tough" U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, as he continued an attack on Democrats who have called for the agency's abolition.

"We respect ICE. You know, ICE is the one handling tough people," Trump said at a dinner staged as part of a PGA tournament and attended by several players.

"But when these people come into our country and come in illegally, and then they are dispersed throughout the country, and then all of a sudden you see nests of MS-13, you know, it's like you're liberating towns," Trump said, referring to a mostly Hispanic gang.

"We send ICE in. And for ICE, it's just another day, like Phil, and John, and Keegan, all of the guys, and Bubba, like when they play golf," Trump said.

He was referring to PGA players Phil Mickelson, John Daly, Keegan Bradley and Bubba Watson, who were in the audience.

"These guys, they walk into those areas, they take 'em out of there so fast. They're not afraid of anything. It is, it's like you're liberating a town, like in a war," Trump continued.

"You're liberating a town or an area, and ICE goes in there, and they go in there, and sometimes they have to go in swinging. They don't mind. They're tough. And then I hear Democrats saying, 'We want to abandon ICE. We want to abandon.' " Trump said. "We're not abandoning ICE, and we're not abandoning law enforcement."

Trump drew applause when he told the crowd that his forthcoming Supreme Court nominee will be a "home run." He plans an announcement Monday of his choice to replace retiring Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) is one of three red-state Democrats who voted last year to confirm Trump's first Supreme Court nominee, Neil M. Gorsuch, and who Republicans hope will support this nominee.

West Virginia's other U.S. senator, Republican Shelley Moore Capito, was among officials on hand to meet Trump when he landed in nearby Lewisburg, along with state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, who is running against Manchin this year.

The "Salute to Service" dinner was part of a PGA golf tournament billed as "A Military Tribute at the Greenbrier." The tournament was formerly known as the Greenbrier Classic.

The historic mountain resort is owned by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, a coal mining executive and Trump ally who introduced Trump as "the guy, the man, the man, that has done more for this country than anyone could ever imagine."

Trump told the crowd that the governor had asked him to speak and that he accepted in part because Justice, elected in 2016 as a Democrat, switched to the Republican Party last year.

Justice was previously registered as a Republican until 2015.

Trump won West Virginia by 42 points over Democrat Hillary Clinton, a fact he mentioned approximately 30

seconds into remarks that veered far from a script about honoring military service and providing services to veterans.

Trump, an avid golfer, indulged his inner fan with asides about the merits of one golfer's putter and the length of another's drives.

"I love this state, which I happened to win by 42 points over a Democrat. Forty-two points! It's like one of these genius golfers winning by 9. You know, it's like the same thing."

## **Republicans Twice As Likely As Democrats To Say U.S. 'Stands Above Other Countries': Poll**

**Pew Research survey finds sentiment shared by just 12 percent of Americans under 30**

By Laura Kelly

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

As America prepares to ring in its 242nd birthday, a new survey finds that while a majority of its people say the U.S. is one of the greatest countries in the world, Republicans are more likely to support that statement than Democrats, according to a report by the Pew Research Center.

An estimated 41 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents support that the U.S. "stands above other countries", compared to 19 percent of Democrats and those that lean Democratic.

The left is more agreeable to saying that the U.S. is "one of the greatest countries, along with others," — at 60 percent, according to the survey which was conducted between June 8 – 18.

The researchers said that results generally remained the same from a previous survey in 2015.

A majority of respondents in both groups agree that the U.S. "is one of the greatest countries in the world."

Fewer respondents believe that there are other countries greater than the U.S., but Democrats are more likely to believe this than Republicans, at 20 percent to 7 percent respectively.

Across racial categories, a similar share of whites (30 percent), blacks (31 percent) and Hispanics (26 percent) view the U.S. as a great country and on par with some other countries, the authors wrote.

But there is a large gap in viewpoint based on age group, the researchers found, with Americans 65 and older more likely to say the U.S. stands above all other nations (44 percent) compared to 12 percent of those age 30 or younger.

## **The Fight Against Trump Is A Battle For Freedom**

By Dana Milbank

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

Every 75 years or so in our history, Americans have renewed their commitment to freedom.

Divide our history into thirds, and you can see, at regular intervals, a rededication to our founding doctrine. In 1789, the framers drafted the Bill of Rights. Seventy-four years later, at the turning point in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called for "a new birth of freedom" to honor those who died. Seventy-eight years after that, on the eve of U.S. entry into world war in 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the "four freedoms."

That was 77 years ago, and we are due for another renewal. Neither fascism nor civil war threatens us, but Americans are united in fear. Much of the country fears the loss of basic freedoms under President Trump: free speech, press and religion, due process and control over their bodies. Trump, meanwhile, foments fears among his followers of crime, gangs, immigrants and civil servants. And Americans of all beliefs fear they are losing the American Dream and its promise of economic mobility.

Trump's opponents are seemingly confused about how to respond in this election year. Do they appeal to whites or nonwhites, progressives or moderates, move to the left to rally the "base" or hew to the center to capture the swing voters? Should they make an economic argument or a social argument, target those concerned about jobs or those angry about the president?

These are false choices, though, because our salvation will be what it always has been. On this 242nd birthday of the United States, let's rededicate ourselves to freedom:

Freedom from Trump's constant attacks on women, immigrants, people of color, gay people and Muslims.

Freedom to work and live without discrimination, harassment and violence because of your gender, race or religion.

Freedom to get medical care when you or your children are sick.

Freedom to earn a living wage, to attend college or get job training, and to retire in security.

Freedom from a rigged economy in which the top 1 percent own more than the bottom 90 percent combined.

Freedom to marry whom you choose.

Freedom to make decisions about your own body.

Freedom to send your kids to school without fear for their safety.

Freedom to breathe clean air, to drink clean water, to live on a habitable planet.

Freedom to elect your leaders without the rich, or foreign governments, choosing them for you.

And freedom to speak, to protest and to publish without the threat of violence.

Not only do such ideas unify the left (far more than quibbling about, say, which form of universal health care is best or what exactly should be done with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), but freedom appeals broadly to Americans regardless of politics. Ask us what it means to be

American, and you will get one answer above all others: “to be free.”

Conservatives long claimed ownership of it. (Remember Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and freedom fries?) But Trump has essentially ceded the freedom agenda to his opponents. One measure, using a database of his speeches, tweets and -Q&As, finds that he has used the word “freedom” 72 times this year (often dismissively, as in “we need freedom of the press, but . . .”). That’s far less than he has used, say, “respect” (252), “strong” (502), “win” (306), “border” (617), “taxes” (158), “Democrat” (560), “kill” (159), “country” (1,288), “illegal” (127), “crime” (250) and “great” (2,826).

This isn’t just a linguistic de-emphasis of freedom; Trump has made common cause with dictators and played down human rights abroad while starting a trade war with democratic allies. At home he has questioned due process for refugees, taken immigrant children from their parents, imposed a travel ban on several Muslim-majority nations and declared the media the enemy of the American people. He is now poised to shift the balance on the Supreme Court away from abortion rights and gay rights.

In a very real sense, the fight against Trump is a battle for freedom.

He hopes to make the midterm elections about sanctuary cities, MS-13, a socialist takeover, the “deep state,” a corrupt justice system and immigrants “invading and infesting” America. Rather than join him in the fear chamber, progressives and Democrats ought to respond with a variation of what FDR proposed for the world in a very different context in 1941, “freedom of speech and expression,” “freedom of every person to worship God in his own way,” “freedom from want” and — of new significance now — “freedom from fear.”

“This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women,” Roosevelt said, “and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God.”

This faith sustained America through those dark times. It will not fail us in our 243rd year.

## The Real Meaning Of ‘America First’

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), July 3, 2018

MID-19TH-CENTURY AMERICA had an expansive view of its national mission, set forth in a piece of patriotic music so popular that it became a Fourth of July staple and was regarded by many as our national anthem, until we got an official one. The song, “Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean” (The shrine of each patriot’s devotion/A world offers homage to thee) might be regarded by some as bombastic (With the garlands of vict’ry about her/When so proudly she bore her

brave crew) or even militaristic (The army and navy forever/Three cheers for the red, white and blue).

But it’s a rousing song, and schoolchildren all over America belted it out with gusto until well into the past century — including two lines that resonated above all the others:

Thy banners make tyranny tremble,

When borne by the red, white, and blue.

This was more than a bit of verse; it was an idea that was very much a part of the founding of the new nation. John Adams saw the America that was to come as part of a providential design “for the Illumination of the Ignorant and the Emancipation of the slavish Part of Mankind all over the Earth.” That design has not, of course, been entirely realized, in America or elsewhere. But it has stood as an ideal to be pursued, a set of principles dear to much of the world and one of the things for which this country has been admired far more than for its power or wealth.

This history makes it all the more difficult to understand why the president of a nation that long ago set itself against tyranny now praises and consorts with so many unsavory national leaders in Europe, Asia and the Middle East — some of them outright dictators, some imposing authoritarian schemes to the extent they can get away with it, some inflicting brutal repression on their enemies — and just about all of them profiting handsomely from their positions.

Last month, homage was paid to the head of the North Korean government, an unspeakably cruel regime that has broken many promises to American presidents and may well break more. This month, President Trump will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government and its minions have worked unceasingly to undermine faith in democracy by spreading false information, meddling in foreign elections, and sponsoring invasions of neighboring countries and, by some accounts, assassinations at home and abroad. Perhaps something good will come of Mr. Trump’s missions to the maleficent. But history suggests that it takes a great deal more than one president’s personality and line of palaver to advance world comity and good order.

“The United States of America was the first country in history to be officially committed to the ‘pursuit of happiness’ as the practical goal of politics and government,” wrote author Marshall B. Davidson. “The Founding Fathers understood what they were undertaking when they took up arms in 1776. . . . They had fought not only to preserve their liberty but to justify their concepts of liberty itself. And so it was that the cause of America was set on a course toward becoming the cause of all mankind.”

This is the more apt meaning of the misappropriated words “America First”: America as leader of a worldwide movement toward government of, by and for the people. It needs to be revived and broadcast once again — not only to express support and encouragement for those in need of it

throughout the world but also to restore our own good reputation and our concept of what we stand for.

## **California Separatists To Declare Independence On July 4: 'Stand Up Against American Occupation'**

By Valerie Richardson

[Washington Times](#), July 3, 2018

While other Americans celebrate the holiday with picnics and parades, California secessionists are taking Independence Day literally.

The Yes California independence campaign, known as Calexit, plans to rally Wednesday at the state capitol in Sacramento, calling on like-minded residents to "stand up against American occupation of California" and for Trump supporters to "get out of California."

"The Fourth of July is no longer a day to celebrate in California," said the campaign, which is collecting signatures to place a secession measure on the 2020 ballot, in an Independence Day message.

Calexit has generated plenty of fireworks with its effort to spin off California as a separate country, but billionaire Tim Draper generated the biggest bang in April when he qualified his three-Californias measure for the November ballot.

The initiative, now named Proposition 9, is aimed at making California more governable by dividing it into three more manageable states named Southern California, which would include San Diego and the Central Valley; Northern California, encompassing San Francisco, and California, which would hold Los Angeles.

"It's beautiful weather, I love California, but it's now 50th in quality of life because people can't afford to live here, and they move," Mr. Draper said Monday on Fox Business.

So far Proposition 9 has shown little support in the polls, but Mr. Draper said the proposal is moving in the right direction.

"It started at 13 percent in favor and then it went to 17 percent in favor and now you said 27 percent in favor," Mr. Draper said. "What happens is as people start thinking about it, they say, yeah, I'd like to see my kids have a better education, yeah I'd like to have better infrastructure, yeah, I'd like to have lower taxes, and I think you could have all that."

The Fourth of July has special significance for New California, which seeks not to secede but to split the state in two along rural-urban lines, following procedures laid out in Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

About 200 members fanned out Tuesday to read the organization's latest "grievance against the state of California" on the steps of 18 county court and government buildings.

"The Founding Fathers laid down their grievances in the Declaration of Independence, and that's the process we're following," said New California co-founder Paul Preston. "It's

really kind of exciting to see the Declaration of Independence utilized again."

The group issued its own declaration of independence on Jan. 15, and has since relayed 24 grievances, one per week, as it seeks to gain county support and ultimately persuade the state legislature to divide the state.

"Our message is we're actually in the process of a real Declaration of Independence procedure," said Mr. Preston. "It's playing out exactly that way."

Terry Gherardi, spokesman for the State of Jefferson, which has filed a federal lawsuit in search of a two-state solution, said his movement also has much in common with the nation's founding.

"As we celebrate the 4th of July and our independence, the 23 Counties of the State of Jefferson remind everyone, the importance of equal representation for all citizens in the 58 Counties of California and other states, we the people of Jefferson also seek our independence from the oligarchy governing the State of California, forming the new State of Jefferson," he said in a statement.

The tone couldn't be more different at Calexit, where organizers Louis Marinelli and Marcus Ruiz Evans have framed their independence campaign as a reaction to American imperialism and the Trump administration.

Calexit's Fourth of July message blasted the "ancestors of those undocumented immigrants from the United States who settled in California without invitation, decimated the local population through disease and genocide, stole the natural resources from under their feet, and declared California an American territory."

"For the 172nd time, these Americans, now numbering in the millions with just as many American flags and Donald Trump's red baseball caps, will celebrate their independence this Wednesday on occupied land. How ironic," said the statement. "But you can bet the Yes California Independence Campaign will not sit quietly along the sidelines."

Calexit seeks to qualify a ballot measure that would direct California's governor to work with Congress on separating the state from the rest of the nation.

## **Trump Hails 'American Heroes' Who Helped U.S. Win Independence**

By Darlene Superville

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

President Donald Trump wished America a happy Fourth of July holiday Wednesday and reserved special praise for the "American heroes" whose sacrifice he said helped the nation win her independence 242 years ago.

Trump tweeted a short video that included well wishes from him and first lady Melania Trump. The Trumps were hosting a White House picnic for military families later

Wednesday, followed by a concert and viewing of the fireworks on the National Mall.

"Our freedom has been earned through the blood and sweat and sacrifice of American heroes," Trump said.

Trump left the White House on Wednesday morning clad in a white short-sleeved shirt, dark slacks and a cap and was driven west across the Potomac River in the direction of the private golf club he owns in Northern Virginia.

The White House did not immediately confirm that Trump is at the club. Reporters were not allowed to accompany him to his destination, as is the case with virtually all presidential travel.

Trump got into the Independence Day spirit a day earlier by celebrating active-duty service members during a military tribute Tuesday night in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. At the "Salute to Service" charity dinner, Trump praised "Americans of every generation" who have served in the armed forces.

Happy Fourth of July....Our Country is doing GREAT!  
— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 4, 2018

## **Trump Delivers Independence Day Speech On Twitter**

By Evan Real

[Hollywood Reporter](#), July 4, 2018

President Trump took to Twitter on Wednesday morning to post a video, in which he wished the American people a happy Independence Day. In doing so, the ex-Celebrity Apprentice host gave a brief history lesson, emphasizing the United States' victory over Great Britain in the Revolutionary War hundreds of years ago.

"My fellow Americans, [First Lady] Melania and I are truly honored to wish every American a happy Independence Day," Trump began. "It was 242 years ago today in Philadelphia that 56 brave representatives of the American people adopted our Declaration of Independence. They announced to the world that America would be free and America would be independent. They pledged their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor. In so doing, they forever changed the course of human history."

The president then acknowledged George Washington and "his army of brave patriots" who "fought a long, tough war with the British to win America's freedom." Trump continued, "Win they did. From Bunker Hill to Saratoga to Yorktown, American soldiers fought and died to secure our independence and to make a sovereign nation."

He added: "Today as we celebrate the Fourth of July with friends and family, let us never forget that our freedom has been earned through the blood, sweat and sacrifice of American heroes. And these were great American heroes."

The reality star turned politician also took a moment to acknowledge veterans of the armed forces and current military members.

"And let us share the grateful heart of our nation with every veteran and member of the United States' armed forces — truly special people," he said. "We are in awe of their courage and we are eternally in their debt. Together we honor their noble sacrifice by pledging our love and loyalty to our country, our flag and our fellow citizens."

"We are and will always be one people, one family and one glorious nation under God," Trump concluded. "Happy Fourth of July and God bless America."

Trump's address comes just days after demonstrators flooded more than 700 marches across the country to protest the president's controversial immigration policies, which have separated thousands of children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump took to Twitter amid the protests to show his support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as some Democrats called for major changes to the agency. Tweeting Saturday from New Jersey, Trump urged ICE agents to "not worry or lose your spirit" and wrote that "the radical left Dems want you out. Next it will be all police."

Watch Trump's Fourth of July address below.

## **Trump Marks Fourth Of July By Hailing 'Noble Sacrifice' Of Military**

By Max Greenwood

[The Hill](#), July 4, 2018

President Trump marked the Fourth of July on Wednesday by hailing the "noble sacrifice" of U.S. service members.

In a video posted online, Trump recounted the story of the Declaration of Independence and the war against Great Britain that ensued.

"It was 242 years ago today in Philadelphia that 56 brave representatives of the American people adopted our Declaration of Independence," Trump said. "They announced to the world that America would be free and America would be independent."

"They pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," he continued. "In so doing, they forever changed the course of human history."

Trump's monologue then shifted gears to focus on the U.S. military.

"Let us never forget that our freedom has been earned through the blood and sweat and sacrifice of American heroes," Trump said.

"And let us share the grateful heart of our nation with every veteran and member of the United States Armed Forces," he continued. "Truly special people."

## Trump Thanks Military, Hypes Space Force In July 4 Speech

By Nikki Schwab

[New York Post](#), July 4, 2018

Scott Pruitt isn't fully in the doghouse since the embattled EPA Administrator was invited to President Trump's Fourth of July picnic and even got a shout-out from the president.

Trump said he was "honored" to be joined by members of his cabinet, announcing the presence of Pruitt along with a handful of others, including Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who's taken heat in recent weeks for her role in the president's hard-line immigration policies.

Earlier in the day, a senior administration official told CNN that Pruitt was "inching forward to the tipping point," with Trump because of numerous scandals and may soon need to look for new employment.

But the EPA administrator was seen on the White House South Lawn enjoying the annual picnic alongside military families, which made up the bulk of the guests.

He was even wearing a red gingham shirt that matched first lady Melania Trump's blue gingham dress.

Most of the president's remarks at the event were dedicated to those in the military, and he also made a plug for his newest Pentagon pitch: "You may have heard we will soon have the Space Force," Trump said. "People are very excited about it."

The Trumps' Fourth of July fete is a far cry from the star-studded lineups that were a regular feature of the Obama years.

see also

Trump calls for new 'Space Force' as part of US military  
President Trump on Monday said he was directing the Pentagon...

Mainstream acts like The Killers, the Foo Fighters, Pitbull and Bruno Mars were among those who entertained when Obama hosted the celebration. For his final year in office, Obama invited rapper Kendrick Lamar and singer Janelle Monae.

Country artist Sara Evans headlined this year's show, which also featured pianist Lola Astanova, two "American Idol" finalists – Jax and Jonny Brenns – as well as the United States Marines Band, the Navy's "Sea Chanters" and the Air Force's band, "Max Impact."

This year the Trumps did arrange for the Fourth of July concert to be televised, something that hasn't been done in the past.

Before the president attended the picnic he spent a chunk of the holiday at his Trump National Golf Club in nearby Virginia. He went light on the tweeting, sending out two holiday greetings and a screed against the "OPEC Monopoly," which he blames for higher gas prices.

## At White House Picnic, Trump Thanks Military Families 'For Keeping America Safe, Strong, Proud, Mighty, And Free'

By Anna Giaritelli

[Washington Examiner](#), July 4, 2018

President Trump thanked the hundreds of people who turned out to the White House's annual picnic for military families on the Fourth of July for the sacrifices they and those before them have made to maintain America's freedom.

"To every service member here today and watching around the world — they're all watching — and to your incredible families, these are truly unbelievable people, thank you for keeping America safe, strong, proud, mighty, and free," Trump told spectators on the South Lawn of the White House during remarks that lasted seven minutes.

"Our freedom only exists because there are brave Americans willing to give their lives to defend it and defend our great country," he continued. "American liberty has been earned through the blood, sweat, and sacrifice of American patriots. The immortal story of the American warrior is written in the fields of Gettysburg, the sands of Iwo Jima, the mountains of Afghanistan, and the snow of Valley Forge. It is the story of honor, duty, loyalty and love."

"They're all watching," Trump says of all service members around the globe.

"God bless America," he said. "Happy Fourth of July everybody." [pic.twitter.com/Brb9FRFUEZ](#)— Jennifer Jacobs (@JenniferJJacobs) July 4, 2018

Trump named and honored members from each branch of the military and teased the Space Force. Last month, Trump announced the Pentagon would immediately begin creating a new Space Force military service that would oversee gaining control of military space from the Air Force.

"You may have heard that we will soon have the Space Force," Trump said on Wednesday evening. "People are very excited about it."

First lady Melania Trump and Vice President Mike Pence joined Trump after the speech to shake attendees' hands. Trump was spotted by reporters pumping his fist into the air. Karen Pence was in attendance, but not seen mingling with the crowd.

Cabinet members reporting for duty at this 4th of July Trump event: Scott Pruitt, Kirstjen Nielsen, Elaine Chao (all seen by the press).

Also here, unseen, but according to POTUS: Ben Carson, Alex Azar, Bob Lighthizer and acting VA sec Peter O'Rourke. [pic.twitter.com/G6DJDjbEE3](#)— Jennifer Jacobs (@JenniferJJacobs) July 4, 2018

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen were spotted taking pictures with guests as the military band played.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Veterans Affairs Secretary Peter O'Rourke, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer also attended the military family picnic.

The Trumps went back inside the White House after shaking hands for a few minutes, but will return to the lawn for the fireworks show at sunset.

Trump spent the day at a private golf club he owns just outside D.C. in Northern Virginia before heading back to the White House later in the day to headline the picnic for military families.

Reporters traveling with the presidential motorcade said Trump arrived at the Trump National Golf Club, an 800-acre property near Potomac Falls, shortly after 11 a.m. local time.

Wednesday marks the 122nd time Trump has visited a golf resort during his year and a half in office.

Presidents for decades have hosted military families on the South Lawn of the White House. The picnic is always followed by fireworks over the National Mall.

## **President Trump And First Lady Salute Military At Independence Day Picnic**

By Michelle Moons

[Breitbart](#), July 4, 2018

President Donald Trump honored each branch of the United States military at a White House Fourth of July Independence Day picnic, specifically praising one member representing each branch – even making mention of the proposed “Space Force.”

The Marine band played as Sarah Sheffield sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the event.

“Happy fourth of July to everybody. Great day,” Trump said to the military crowd.

“Melania and I are honored to celebrate American independence with the heroes who protect American independence. The men, the women of the United States military, these are our finest. Thank you very much,” said Trump.

VP Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence were in attendance, as were several members of the President's cabinet.

Trump continued:

242 years ago on July 4, 1776 America's founders adopted the Declaration of Independence and changed the course of human history, but our freedom exists only because there are brave Americans willing to give their lives to defend it and defend our great country.

American liberty has been earned through the blood, sweat, and sacrifice of American patriots. The immortal story of the American warrior is written in the fields of Gettysburg,

the sands of Iwo Jima, the mountains of Afghanistan, and the snow of Valley Forge. It is the story of courage, honor, duty, loyalty, and love.

Today we are honored to recognize a few of the incredible men and women who serve our country and defend our great American flag.

Trump announced the appointed representative of the Army for the event, Retired Captain Jason Pak. His West Point graduate father was also present, along with his mother. Trump spoke of meeting their inspiring family before taking the podium, “Their story is an incredible one.”

President Trump then introduced Navy representative Petty Officer First Class Steve Swift, a master explosive ordinance disposal technician. “That's a tough job and a dangerous job,” said Trump. Swift's excellent performance recently earned him “sailor of the quarter” for his unit. His wife, daughters, and parents were also in attendance.

The representative for the Coast Guard was next, Lieutenant Ryan McCue, a helicopter pilot. “One of Ryan's most important jobs is to intercept aircraft that fly where they are not supposed to be flying in and around the capital area,” said Trump. He is temporarily assigned away from his wife and son.

Trump also pointed out that the Coast Guard saved 16,000 lives in last season's hurricanes.

Captain Brook Peel represented the Air Force. A Weather Officer, Peel “helped lead the Air National Guard's response to Hurricane Maria,” said Trump. “He did an incredible job.” He was named 2017's Weather Company Grade Officer of the Year. Peel's sister was present with him for the event.

As he was praising the Air Force, Trump said, “and by the way, I might add, we very well may soon have the Space Force. You've been hearing about that.” The crowd applauded. “Everyone is very excited about that.”

There to represent the Marine Corps was Staff Sergeant Jonathan Race. A Senior Analyst for the Cyber Incident Response team, Race works to protect America from cyber attacks. “He's done such a great job that they not only asked him to develop a new curriculum on cyberwarfare, they also asked him to teach the first class of the newly established Cyberspace Marines,” said Trump. Race's wife and son were there with him at the event.

President Trump stopped after each representative and thanked them for their service and incredible work for America.

Trump closed his remarks:

To every service member here today and stationed around the world — they're all watching — and to your incredible families — these are truly unbelievable people — thank you for keeping America safe, strong, proud, mighty, and free.

God bless you. God bless our military. And God bless America. Happy 4th of July. Thank you everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

President Trump and first lady Melania Trump shook hands with people after the speech before waving to the crowd and heading back into the White House. Their waves were met with cheers from the crowd.

## **President Trump's July Fourth: Golf, Picnic, And Tweeting**

By David Jackson

[USA Today](#), July 4, 2018

Amid political tests and tensions, President Donald Trump spent Wednesday's July Fourth holiday golfing, tweeting and hosting a White House picnic for military families.

The presidential motorcade arrived at the Trump National Golf Club in suburban Virginia in the late morning, and returned four hours later on a 94-degree day.

As he departed the White House in the morning, Trump took to Twitter.

In addition to a general salutation – "Happy Fourth of July....Our Country is doing GREAT!" – Trump also tweeted out a video in which he salutes the authors of the Declaration of Independence and the American soldiers who won the revolutionary war against Great Britain.

Trump also saluted current members of the U.S. armed forces – "truly special people" – saying "we are in awe of their courage, and we are eternally in their debt."

Trump took a low-key holiday while preparing for high stakes events in the coming days.

The president is deciding whom to nominate to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, a decision he said he will announce Monday; the next day, Trump is scheduled to leave for Europe on a trip that includes a NATO summit and a meeting with Russia President Vladimir Putin.

Some of Trump's critics, meanwhile, marked the Fourth of July by protesting administration policies ranging from immigration to the imminent Supreme Court selection.

"Everywhere we look, our most fundamental values are under attack," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez in his Independence Day statement.

"Thousands of children have been separated from their parents at our southern border," Perez said. "At our highest court, workers' rights are being taken away, voting rights are under assault, Muslim Americans are being discriminated against for their faith, and women's right to choose is under threat like never before."

The president and first lady Melania Trump will host a July Fourth picnic for military families at the White House later Wednesday.

The Trumps and their guests will watch fireworks from the South Lawn.

## **PRESIDENT TRUMP Tops Obama In Approval Numbers At Same Point In His Presidency**

By Jim Hoft

[Gateway Pundit](#), July 4, 2018

President Trump's approval rating on his second Independence Day is at 48% with likely voters.

And that is with 90% negative coverage from the far left mainstream media.

And after a month of anti-ICE protests by Democrats President Trump jumped 10 points with Hispanics in the recent Harris-Harvard poll.

On Barack Obama's second Independence Day — despite a fawning media — his approval rating was only at 45%. It comes down to results.

President Trump is delivering on his promises.

Since President Trump's election the DOW daily closing stock market average has risen as much as 44%. (On November 9th, 2016, the DOW closed at 18,332 – in January of this year the DOW reached heights of over 26,500.)

On February 28th, 2017, President Trump matched President Reagan's 1987 record for the most continuous closing high trading days when the DOW reached a new high for its 12th day in a row!

Under President Trump the DOW set the record for the fastest 500 point increase between major milestones when it reached 26,000 on January 17th. It only took 6 days to increase 500 points from 25,500. As a matter of fact, since President Trump's election the DOW has set records for the fastest 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000 and 7000 point increases in the DOW's history!

2017 was the best year ever for the DOW. It increased more points than ever in its history (4,956) and it reached more all-time highs (71) than any year in history!

Every US stock index has reached all-time highs during the Trump Presidency.

And President Trump's foreign policy is also seeing results.

History is being made.

President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, shake hands as they meet for the first time, Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at the Capella Hotel in Singapore. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)

## **NY Daily News Mocks Trump As A 'Clown' On Independence Day**

By Avery Anapol

[The Hill](#), July 4, 2018

One of President Trump's hometown papers mocked him on Independence Day by depicting him as a clown.

The New York Daily News's July 4 cover features an edited image showing the president in full clown makeup, wearing a shattered gold crown.

"The clown who plays king can't overthrow the bedrock values this nation was founded on 242 years ago today," the headline reads.

Happy Birthday, America! <https://t.co/4dPHLNrb9y>

An early look at Wednesday's front... [pic.twitter.com/3l4mt72Xoh](https://pic.twitter.com/3l4mt72Xoh)— New York Daily News (@NYDailyNews) July 4, 2018

The New York Daily News has been highly critical of Trump throughout his presidency and often uses their front page to mock the president over scandals.

Just last week, the paper proclaimed "We are f-----" following the announcement that Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy would retire.

Trump finds himself in the midst of several scandals this July 4, including his administration's handling of immigrant families at the border, continued reported ethics violations by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and intensifying tariff battles with key U.S. allies.

## **America Can't Spell: Melania Trump, Others Use #IndependenceDay – Not Independence Day**

By Andrew Clark

[USA Today](#), July 4, 2018

Oh America. We're shaking our collective heads over here.

The Fourth of July is a pretty significant national holiday. It is, after all, the day we celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Note the bold and capitalized text. It is by design.

Because Twitter is apparently paying homage to a day set aside for ... dancing???

Independence Day — not Independence Day — was a popular trend on Twitter on Wednesday morning.

Even the U.S. Air Force, the city of Boston and the New Jersey government used the incorrect spelling in their hashtags.

They weren't the only ones. It even got first lady Melania Trump, who originally tweeted "Happy #IndependenceDay May God bless this great nation & all the people who protect it!"

Eight minutes later, the tweet was removed and replaced with #independenceday, spelled properly.

More: How to photograph the July 4th fireworks on your smartphone

More: Drones replace July 4th fireworks in western towns worried about wildfires. But where's the 'boom'?

Luckily, grammar sticklers have pointed out the mistake on many posts using the incorrect spelling.

But still, the misspelling was everywhere — even on posts that are otherwise thoughtful and serious.

Take time to use spellcheck today, fellow Americans. Or maybe stick with "Happy 4th of July."

Follow Andrew Clark on Twitter @Clarky\_Tweets

Read or Share this story: <https://usat.ly/2z9JkRI>

## **Melania Trump, City Of Boston And Thousands Of Americans Misspell 'Independence Day' On Twitter**

By Ariel Scotti

[New York Daily News](#), July 4, 2018

In their defense, as Democratic strategist Peter Daou pointed out, when attempting to hashtag "Independence Day," Twitter is automatically defaulting to the misspelled version. The auto-fill error caught Daou, a former Hillary Clinton aide, on his first attempt, he admitted.

## **'Our Most Fundamental Values Are Under Attack': Democrats Issue Bleak July Fourth Statement**

By David Jackson

[USA Today](#), July 4, 2018

Happy Fourth of July — or maybe not.

The Democratic National Committee's annual Fourth of July statement reflects its long-standing tensions with President Donald Trump.

While hailing the nation's founding ideal of equality for all, DNC chairman Tom Perez said in the statement, "we recognize that America's founding promise remains out of reach for too many families."

Adding that "everywhere we look, our most fundamental values are under attack," Perez referred to problems surrounding low-paying jobs, health care, immigration, injustice to people of color and members of the LGBTQ community, a recent Supreme Court decision on public unions, and the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy.

"Thousands of children have been separated from their parents at our southern border," Perez said. "At our highest court, workers' rights are being taken away, voting rights are under assault, Muslim Americans are being discriminated against for their faith, and women's right to choose is under threat like never before."

While he did not cite Trump by name, Perez's list deals with White House policies.

Perez closed by saying, "as we celebrate our nation's independence, Democrats reaffirm our commitment to fighting for the values of inclusion and opportunity for everyone."

The Republicans, in control of the White House and Congress, issued a more upbeat statement about the Fourth of July.

"As we celebrate more than two centuries of independence, we honor the patriots who declared America a free nation in 1776," said Ronna McDaniel, chairwoman of the Republican National Committee. "We also remember and thank our service members for their lasting dedication and countless sacrifices to guard our liberties."

McDaniel pledged "to uphold America's founding principles and continue to fight for our inalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all."

Here is the Democratic statement in full:

"Nearly two and a half centuries ago, a band of patriots gathered in Philadelphia to declare that 'all men are created equal.' Our nation has changed dramatically since those words were first written on parchment. Generations of brave Americans – from service members to civil rights activists – have fought to expand the promise of equality for more Americans and move our country forward in its march toward a more perfect union.

"As we celebrate our nation's independence, we recognize that America's founding promise remains out of reach for too many families. Too many members of our society are still struggling to find a good-paying job or get the health care they need. Too many women, LGBTQ Americans, people of color, and people with disabilities still face inequality and injustice across our society.

"Everywhere we look, our most fundamental values are under attack. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents at our southern border. At our highest court, workers' rights are being taken away, voting rights are under assault, Muslim Americans are being discriminated against for their faith, and women's right to choose is under threat like never before.

"The Democratic Party believes that all people are created equal – no matter who they are, where they come from, who they love, or how they pray. As we celebrate our nation's independence, Democrats reaffirm our commitment to fighting for the values of inclusion and opportunity for everyone."

Read or Share this story: <https://usat.ly/2tT35I5>

## **Democrats' Fourth Of July Message: America Sucks And It's Trump's Fault**

By Joel B. Pollak

[Breitbart](#), July 4, 2018

Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez issued a bleak message for the Fourth of July, portraying the United States as a deeply troubled nation, and suggesting that President Donald Trump's policies are to blame.

"As we celebrate our nation's independence, we recognize that America's founding promise remains out of reach for too many families. Too many members of our society are still struggling to find a good-paying job or get the

health care they need. Too many women, LGBTQ Americans, people of color, and people with disabilities still face inequality and injustice across our society," the statement read.

"Everywhere we look, our most fundamental values are under attack. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents at our southern border," he added. Perez also attacked the Supreme Court: "At our highest court, workers' rights are being taken away, voting rights are under assault, Muslim Americans are being discriminated against because of their faith, and women's right to choose is under threat like never before."

Perez concluded: "Democrats reaffirm our commitment to fighting for the values of inclusion and opportunity for everyone."

The Washington Examiner noted that Perez's statement came one day after he said that socialist candidates like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez were "the future of our party."

Perez is notorious for using profanity when attacking the Trump administration and the Republican Party. Last July, for example, he declared that Republicans "don't give a shit about the people."

President Donald Trump took a different view:

Happy Fourth of July....Our Country is doing GREAT!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 4, 2018

The majority of Americans agree with the president, and disagree with the Democrats, according to a new Gallup poll that found 55% of U.S. adults believe the country's best days are ahead — up from 47% in 2012.

## **Kamala Harris' July 4 Reminder: 'It Was Eight Immigrants Who Signed The Declaration Of Independence'**

### **California Democrat sparks Fourth of July fireworks over immigration**

By Valerie Richardson

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

Sen. Kamala Harris, California Democrat, ignited fireworks on social media by stating in a Fourth of July tweet that the Declaration of Independence was signed by "eight immigrants."

"A reminder this Fourth of July: it was eight immigrants who signed the Declaration of Independence. Happy Independence Day," said Ms. Harris, whose message was echoed by others.

A reminder this Fourth of July: it was eight immigrants who signed the Declaration of Independence. Happy Independence Day. — Kamala Harris (@SenKamalaHarris) July 4, 2018

Eight immigrants signed the Declaration of Independence. Happy 4th Of July. — ERIC BALFOUR (@ERICBALFOUR) July 4, 2018

Critics accused Ms. Harris of politicizing the holiday celebration with a faulty comparison to the current political debate over illegal immigration.

"In case you were wondering, the answer is yes. Democrats will politicize everything," said the conservative website Twitchy. "Kamala Harris doesn't so much want to celebrate the Fourth of July as use it to try and score cheap political points."

A reminder: Dems just can't stop with identity politics.

It was actually 56 individuals who signed the Declaration of Independence. Eight born outside the colonies. All pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for this new nation. <https://t.co/ra2GT8eWDM> — Cam Edwards (@CamEdwards) July 4, 2018

The Declaration of Independence had 56 signers, eight of whom were born in Great Britain: Two each born in England, Ireland and Scotland; one born in Northern Ireland, and one born in Wales, according to History.com.

She's not wrong. She mentioned the immigrants only. She said nothing about the others...maybe because they were born here. But no reason for you to know that, ms snippy pants. Reading requires comprehension. — LoriM (@InAllMyGLori) July 4, 2018

Whether they would have been viewed as foreign "immigrants" is unclear, given that the American colonies were under British rule and native-born colonists were considered British subjects.

None of the 56 signers was born a U.S. citizen because there was no United States of America until July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress.

Brilliant! When you're trying to make a lame political point, why distinguish between an immigrant and a colonist. You couldn't possibly immigrate to the US before 1783, since the country didn't actually exist. — Barry Weir French (@WeirFrench) July 4, 2018

How can they be immigrants when they were in British Colonies and it's subjects. They were declaring independence from the crown to become sovereign states. — C. Doniparthi, MD (@CDoniparthi) July 5, 2018

Ms. Harris also came under criticism from those who argued that the eight "immigrants" arrived in the colonies legally, whereas the ongoing political debate is focused on illegal immigration.

Keep in mind that those eight European immigrants had to swear an allegiance to King George as a condition to immigrate. One more reason why the founders took the obligations of citizenship so seriously. — Bruce Huffman (@Cavalier6) July 4, 2018

Eight LEGAL immigrants. Those pesky details, Kamala. — Carrie Jo (@CarrieJoCovfefe) July 4, 2018

## Gallup: One-Quarter Of Liberals Say 'Extremely Proud' To Be American

By Neil Munro

[Breitbart](#), July 4, 2018

The percentage of liberals who say they are "extremely proud" to be an American has plunged by a third since 2016, according to a new survey by Gallup.

In contrast, the percentage of conservatives who say they are extremely proud to be Americans remained stable during President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure and has risen by only a few points since Donald Trump's election in 2016.

In January 2016, 36 percent of liberals said they were extremely proud to be Americans. In mid-June, just 23 percent of liberals said they were extremely proud of being Americans, said the Gallup survey.

In contrast, 61 percent of conservatives said they were extremely proud to be Americans in early 2016. In mid-June, 65 percent of conservatives said they were extremely proud of being Americans.

The ideological gap in attitudes expended from 26 points in early 2016 to 42 points in mid-2018.

The drop in pride among liberals also dragged down the overall ratings among Democrats. The percentage of Democrats who say they are extremely proud of being Americans dropped by 11 points, from 44 percent in early 2016 down to 32 percent in mid-2018. The percentage among Republicans, however, climbed from by 6 points, from 68 percent to 74 percent.

The sharpest drops in pride were among women, non-whites young people, and college graduates.

However, pride among the youngest group dropped rapidly from 2013 to 2015, even before Trump was elected president.

Among college graduates and women, the drop occurred after Trump's election.

Gallup said the shifts in attitudes are making U.S. politics more polarized:

Fewer than half of U.S. adults are extremely proud to be Americans, something that had not been seen in the prior 17 years Gallup has asked the public about its national pride. Politics appears to be a factor, with sharp declines evident among Democrats and political liberals and no decrease among Republicans and conservatives. Left-leaning groups' antipathy toward Donald Trump and their belief that other countries look unfavorably on the president are likely factors in their decline in patriotism, particularly the sharp drops in the past year. But the declines began before Trump was elected.

National pride may be just one of a growing number of issues — including opinions about guns, labor unions and the environment — for which party loyalties are pushing Democrats and Republicans to adopt divergent views. These changes are making each party's base more homogenous but increasingly different from one another.

## **In U.S., Record-Low 47% Extremely Proud To Be Americans**

[Gallup](#), July 2, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This Fourth of July marks a low point in U.S. patriotism. For the first time in Gallup's 18-year history asking U.S. adults how proud they are to be Americans, fewer than a majority say they are "extremely proud." Currently, 47% describe themselves this way, down from 51% in 2017 and well below the peak of 70% in 2003.

The latest results are based on a June 1-13 poll. When Gallup first asked the question in 2001, 55% of Americans said they were extremely proud. After the 9/11 terror attacks caused the public to rally around the nation and its leaders, the percentage expressing extreme pride in the country increased to 65%, and went up further to 70% less than two years later.

By 2005, about the time George W. Bush was set to begin his second term in office and the U.S. was going on its second year of military involvement in Iraq, the percentage extremely proud to be Americans fell to 61%. It held in the high 50% range between 2006 and 2013, but has fallen at least marginally each year since 2015, about the time the 2016 presidential campaign was getting underway.

While the 47% who are extremely proud to be Americans is a new low, the vast majority of Americans do express some level of pride, including 25% who say they are "very proud" and 16% who are "moderately proud." That leaves one in 10 who are "only a little" (7%) or "not at all" proud (3%).

The combined 72% who are extremely or very proud to be Americans is also the lowest in Gallup's trend.

**National Pride Dropping Most Among Democrats, Liberals**

Currently, 32% of Democrats — down from 43% in 2017 and 56% in 2013 — are extremely proud. The decline preceded the election of Donald Trump but has accelerated in the past year.

Less than half of independents, 42%, are also extremely proud. That is down slightly from 48% a year ago, and 50% in 2013.

As has typically been the case, Republicans are more inclined to say they are extremely proud to be Americans than are Democrats and independents. Seventy-four percent of Republicans are extremely proud, which is numerically the highest over the last five years.

With the large decline among Democrats, the Republican-Democratic gap in extreme pride has grown from 15 percentage points in 2013 to 42 points today.

Political liberals are even less likely than Democrats to say they are extremely proud — just 23% do so, compared with 46% of moderates and 65% of conservatives. Extreme pride among liberals has dropped nine points in the past year and 28 points since 2013.

Other demographic differences in national pride largely reflect the political leanings of U.S. adults. Young adults, college graduates, nonwhites and women — all Democratic-leaning groups — are below the national average in terms of being extremely proud to be Americans. Meanwhile, older adults, those without a college degree, whites and men — who are more Republican-leaning — are above the average.

**Extremely Proud to Be an American, by Subgroup**

Most of these subgroups have seen declines in patriotism at some point over the last five years, with those declines greatest among nonwhites, young adults and college graduates.

**Implications**

Fewer than half of U.S. adults are extremely proud to be Americans, something that had not been seen in the prior 17 years Gallup has asked the public about its national pride. Politics appears to be a factor, with sharp declines evident among Democrats and political liberals and no decrease among Republicans and conservatives. Left-leaning groups' antipathy toward Donald Trump and their belief that other countries look unfavorably on the president are likely factors in their decline in patriotism, particularly the sharp drops in the past year. But the declines began before Trump was elected.

National pride may be just one of a growing number of issues — including opinions about guns, labor unions and the environment — for which party loyalties are pushing Democrats and Republicans to adopt divergent views. These changes are making each party's base more homogenous but increasingly different from one another.

**Survey Methods**

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 1-13, 2018, with a random sample of 1,520 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cellphone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random-digit-dial methods.

View survey methodology, complete question responses and trends.

Learn more about how the Gallup Poll Social Series works.

## It's Independence Day, But Americans Aren't Feeling So Proud

By Emily Guskin

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

The Washington Post polling team is celebrating Independence Day the best way we know how: by combing through the latest surveys of what Americans say they think about their country and patriotism.

We came away with an image that is largely negative or deteriorating. Americans are less proud of their country and the way its democracy works, and they show persistently weak trust in government and many major institutions. Republicans are generally more positive about the country than Democrats, an unsurprising dynamic with President Trump in the White House.

But Americans are not all downbeat; positive ratings of the U.S. economy are at their highest levels in more than a decade, and a growing share says the country's best days are ahead. Trust in government near historic lows

According to the latest figures, an almost historically low share of Americans say they trust the government to do what's right, and a majority has an unfavorable opinion of Congress. In both cases, Republicans have more positive views than Democrats.

Pew Research Center found in December 2017 that 18 percent of Americans say they trust the government in Washington "always" or "most of the time." That compares with 73 percent who said the same of the government when the National Election Study began tracking the question in 1958. Trust began to erode in the '60s and '70s and reached a 30-year high soon after the 9/11 attacks, but it fell to just over 20 percent in the early Obama administration and has barely budged since.

While partisans are usually more trusting of government when their party controls the White House, the December Pew survey found Republicans and Republican-leaning independents were only slightly more likely to trust government today (22 percent) than Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (15 percent).

Congress's reputation in particular continues to linger in the dumps, with a Gallup poll this month finding 19 percent of Americans approve of the way it is handling its job. That's up from the low teens at some points last year, in part because of more positive ratings among Republicans. A record low say they're 'extremely proud' to be Americans

The share of people who say they're "extremely proud" to be Americans is plunging. A Gallup poll found a record-low

47 percent of Americans who said they were "extremely proud" of the United States, down from a peak of 70 percent in 2003. That doesn't necessarily mean people are not proud of their country — indeed, an additional 25 percent of adults say they are "very proud" and 16 percent are "moderately proud," while 7 percent say they are "only a little proud" and 3 percent report being "not at all proud."

But the share who report being intensely proud has fallen dramatically, and there's a strong partisan nature to the decline, with Democrats driving the sharp drop in passionate patriotism during the past five years. In 2013, 56 percent of Democrats said they were extremely proud, but that fell to 47 percent by 2015 and to 32 percent in the latest survey. Republicans expressed higher levels of pride to begin with — 71 percent in 2013, and this year a similar 74 percent say they are extremely proud of the country.

The decline has also been sharp along generational and racial lines. A third of those 18 to 29 years old said they were "extremely proud," down from 55 percent in 2013, compared with a narrow three-point shift among seniors over the same period. Likewise, nonwhites have become 14 points less apt to be extremely proud of the United States (from 47 percent to 33 percent), twice the size of the drop among whites (from 61 percent to 54 percent). Record high lacks pride in way democracy works in America

At the same time that extreme pride in being American is decreasing, the share of Americans saying they are not proud of democracy in this country is increasing. Last fall, a Washington Post-University of Maryland. poll found 36 percent of Americans saying they were "not proud" of the way democracy works in the United States. That was twice as high as the General Social Survey found in 2014, when 18 percent said they were not proud, and four times as high as in 2002 (9 percent).

The poll showed a greater partisan divide than in past surveys, with Democrats significantly more likely to say they're not proud of the way democracy works in America (41 percent) than Republicans (24 percent). Shameful sentiment was not limited to Trump critics, though, with a quarter of Americans who approve of Trump saying they lack pride in the country's democracy. Majority says Trump doesn't respect democratic institutions

Trump has been criticized for violating customs followed by past presidents, and the public is skeptical that Trump respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions. According to a June Pew Research Center poll, 6 in 10 Americans said Trump has "not too much" or "no respect at all" for the country's democratic institutions and traditions.

Attitudes split strongly along party lines, with 87 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents saying Trump has little or no respect for democratic institutions while a 70 percent majority of Republicans say Trump does respect

them. Still, a quarter of Republicans say Trump does not respect democratic institutions and traditions much or at all.

Most Americans still trust the military, small business and police. But not much else.

The same three institutions have maintained high confidence among a majority of Americans in Gallup's historical polling, but all other institutions pulled in confidence from under half of Americans. A Gallup poll in June found majorities of Americans said they had a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the military (74 percent), small business (67 percent) and the police (54 percent). But less than half the public reported confidence in 12 other institutions gauged in the survey, including "the church or organized religion" (38 percent), the U.S. Supreme Court (37 percent) and public schools (29 percent). Slim majority say the country's best days are ahead, particularly on the economy

But Americans see some sunny skies ahead. According to a June Gallup poll, 55 percent of Americans say the country's best days are ahead, up from 47 percent in late 2012.

Optimism peaks at nearly 7 in 10 Republicans (69 percent), though nearly half of Democrats (47 percent) agree. Democrats' optimism has fallen from 2012, when President Barack Obama was in office. A meager 24 percent of Republicans said the same, roughly one-third as many as say this today.

The country's improving economy is a bright spot. A CNN/SSRS poll last month found 66 percent rating the U.S. economy as very or somewhat good, similar to the past six months but up from 48 percent in late 2016 and dramatically higher than in mid-2014, when 41 percent saw the economy in a positive light. Asked how they expect the economy to be one year from now, a slightly smaller 59 percent thought it would be good.

Scott Clement contributed to this report.

## **Iran Threatens To Cut Cooperation With Nuclear Body After Trump Move**

By Bozorgmehr Sharafedin

[Reuters](#), July 4, 2018

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## **EU Lawmakers Back Plan For European Investment Bank Work In Iran**

By Robin Emmott

[Reuters](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **China Says Will Not Fire First Shot In Trade War With U.S.**

By Stella Qiu

[Reuters](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **In Tariff Fight With Trump, China Pulls Plan To Strike First**

Beijing says it 'won't fire the first shot' and prepares to assess levies Friday about the same time as the U.S.

By Lingling Wei

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Europe Could Suffer Collateral Damage In US-China Trade War**

By David McHugh

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — European businesses are unsettled as they watch the U.S. and China collide over trade. And for good reason: the nascent global trade war could represent the biggest single threat to the economic upswing that has helped the region get past its financial crisis.

In theory, some European companies could benefit, jumping into market niches if Chinese businesses are kept out of the U.S. market. But that would only be a few companies or sectors.

When your entire economy is heavily dependent on trade, an overall slowdown in global commerce caused by tit-for-tat import taxes provokes fear and undermines confidence.

And that's just what's happening in Europe. By one measure, business confidence has fallen in six of the past seven months in Germany, where exports are almost half of annual economic output.

"It's worth all our efforts to defuse this conflict, so it doesn't become a war," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday.

The U.S. is due to put tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods on Friday. The Chinese will respond with tariffs on an equivalent value of U.S. products such as soybeans, seafood and crude oil.

Amid all this, Europe has its own trade dispute with the U.S. After the U.S. put tariffs on steel and aluminum from many allies, including the European Union, the 28-country bloc responded with import taxes on some \$3.25 billion of U.S. goods. The Trump administration is also studying the

option of putting tariffs on cars, which would significantly escalate the confrontation.

The head of the EU's executive, Jean-Claude Juncker, will head to Washington in late July to try to personally persuade Trump against further measures targeting Europe.

The disputes over trade threaten to spoil the good times for Europe's economy.

Growth last year was the strongest in a decade, since before the global financial crisis. While that has eased in recent quarters, the economy is still strong enough to create jobs. The number of unemployed fell by 125,000 in May, leaving unemployment in the 19 countries that use the euro at 8.4 percent, the lowest since 2008 and down from a high of 12.1 percent in 2013.

"Trade tensions stoked by U.S. President Donald Trump are clouding the economic outlook in Europe," wrote analysts at Berenberg bank in London. They rated the trade risk ahead of troubles from Italy's heavy debt load or faster than expected interest rate increases from the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Many European companies would suffer because they both produce and sell goods in the U.S. and China, the world's biggest economies.

For example, tariffs that China is expected to impose Friday on U.S.-made autos would hit German carmakers Daimler and BMW since they both make vehicles in the United States and export them to China.

Daimler has already lowered its outlook for profits, citing higher than expected costs from the new tariffs. BMW warned in a letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Friday that tariffs would make it harder for it to sell in China the vehicles it builds at its factory in Spartanburg, South Carolina, "potentially leading to a strongly reduced export volumes and negative effects on investment and employment in the United States."

Last year, BMW exported 272,000 vehicles from the Spartanburg plant, more than half its total production. Of those, 81,000 — worth \$2.37 billion — went to China. BMW says its exports reduced the U.S. trade deficit by around \$1 billion.

By themselves, the tariffs that take effect Friday won't immediately have a dramatic impact on global trade. The fear is that retaliation will spiral, hitting the total amount of global commerce.

Even if the overall effect is to harm growth, there could be benefits for some European companies and sectors. Economists Alicia Garcia Herrero and Jianwei Xu at the French bank Natixis say that European makers of cars, aircraft, chemicals, computer chips and factory machinery could in theory snare market share by substituting for Chinese or American products in the two markets. But that's only if Europe's own trade dispute with the U.S. does not escalate — a big if.

Europe is waiting to see whether the Trump administration will go ahead separately with tariffs on auto imports. European companies like BMW, Daimler's Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen's Porsche and Audi divisions, and Fiat Chrysler send \$46.6 billion worth of vehicles every year to the U.S. Some 13.3 million people, or 6.1 percent of the employed population of the EU, work in the automotive sector, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers Association.

"Europe cannot win anything" on an overall basis "for one obvious reason: we are net exporters," said Garcia Herrero, chief economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis and a senior fellow at European research institute Bruegel. "But we should not understate the view that some sectors could get something out of a U.S.-China trade war."

Amid the brewing conflict, China has sought to get Europe on its side, putting on a diplomatic charm offensive during visits by Merkel and French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. The EU and China agreed last month to deepen commercial ties and support trade rules. But the EU remains a close, longtime ally of the U.S. on a range of issues, despite the current tensions with the Trump administration.

One negative outcome for Europe, Herrero said, would be if Trump can push the Chinese into a trade agreement aimed at reducing the U.S. trade deficit. The additional U.S. goods to China could come at the expense of European competitors.

"If China concedes to the U.S. proposed agreement, the whole situation faced by the EU would be much tougher," she and Xu wrote in a research note. "For China to massively reduce its trade surplus with the U.S., it has to in some way substitute its imports away from the EU to the U.S., which would have a significant negative impact on the EU producers."

Complete coverage:  
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## **U.S. Companies In China Think The Government Is Already Messing With Them**

By Danielle Paquette

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

BEIJING — An American company that ships cherries to a coastal province in southeast China recently encountered a new hurdle at the border: Customs officers ordered a load into quarantine for a week, so it spoiled and was sent back to the United States.

American pet-food makers, meanwhile, say they're facing more rigorous inspections at ports, which delay goods from reaching shelves and ultimately hurt sales.

And a U.S. manufacturer that exports vehicles to China recorded a 98 percent jump in random border inspections over the past month, throwing the firm behind schedule.

American business leaders fear these are the "qualitative measures" China warned it would unleash if President Trump imposed tariffs on its exports to the United States.

Just days before the first -25 percent levy is slated to hit \$34 billion in Chinese products, U.S. companies here say they're already feeling the sting in the form of stalled product approvals, worker visas and licensing applications.

In a country where regulation enforcement can vary widely by region, it's hard for analysts to know whether these sudden administrative headaches are a coincidence or the Chinese government following through on threats to make life harder for Americans in business. But anecdotal evidence suggesting official sanction is building, according to veteran observers of the Chinese market.

"There's enough of a trend to say this might be related," said Jake Parker, vice president of China operations at the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents about 200 firms, including PepsiCo, Apple and General Motors. "The tariffs won't solve the problem, but they will damage U.S. interests."

Executives across industries have raised concerns about an increasingly hostile regulatory environment, he said. (The companies wanted to remain anonymous to avoid angering the government.)

They also worry the sparring between Washington and Beijing could fuel anti-American sentiment among Chinese consumers.

One sign of fraying relations: a notice posted by the Chinese Embassy in Washington last week, urging tourists to "avoid going out alone at night" in the United States, where cases of "shootings, robberies, and theft are frequent."

The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

U.S. firms now have more than \$220 billion invested in China, as many scramble to serve the nation's exploding middle class, according to the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China, also known as AmCham China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping invoked this financial commitment at a meeting with U.S. and European executives in June, telling the room, "We punch back," according to one person familiar with the discussion.

Last Friday, AmCham China, which represents about 900 companies here, called a private meeting at a Beijing hotel to discuss the effects of the ongoing negotiations.

It lasted three hours, said AmCham China President Alan Beebe, and many executives wondered: "Am I being singled out?"

Some dreaded the possibility of unusually burdensome fire inspections, he said. Others wondered whether environmental regulations could suddenly get stricter.

"It's a common concern for our members that these measures could be used as a form of retaliation," Beebe said.

China's Ministry of Commerce released a statement in June that called Trump's trade tactics "blackmail" and vowed to retaliate in both "quantitative and qualitative" ways.

Wang Shouwen, vice minister of commerce, said at a news conference in Beijing last week that China has not ramped up regulations to deter U.S. imports.

The first round of U.S. tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese products is scheduled to take effect July 6, and China has pledged to push back with levies on an equal number of American exports.

Trump has threatened to impose new taxes on up to \$416 billion worth of goods in coming months if China doesn't meet his trade demands. (The president has accused the country of committing one of "the greatest thefts in the history of the world.")

China cannot match Trump on tariffs — it imported \$130 billion in goods from the United States last year, compared with America's \$505 billion in purchases from China — but it can apply other forms of pressure, analysts say.

Last year, for example, after the South Korean conglomerate Lotte Group provided land outside Seoul to the U.S. military for a missile system, Chinese authorities shut down dozens of Lotte Mart retail stores citing fire safety violations.

Chinese state media also called for a boycott of Lotte products.

The government can turn that muscle on American firms, said James McGregor, chairman of the greater China region for the consultancy APCO Worldwide.

"They can employ all of the bureaucratic means to make life difficult for companies," he said.

Luna Lin contributed to this report.

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Trump official seeks sanctions for Chinese leaders on human rights concerns

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With tariffs, Trump starts unraveling a quarter-century of U.S.-China economic ties

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## German Carmakers Meet U.S. Envoy Over Trade Threat, Sources Say

By Oliver Sachgau, Jonathan Stearns, Christoph Rauwald

[Bloomberg News](#), July 4, 2018

German auto-industry leaders are making the case to the Trump administration that a trade feud with the U.S. will cause irreparable damage to global business.

The chief executive officers of Volkswagen AG, Daimler AG and BMW AG met Wednesday with the U.S. ambassador to Germany to discuss looming American duties on car imports from the European Union, according to people familiar with the matter.

The meeting, reported earlier by Handelsblatt newspaper, was aimed at forming a direct link to the administration, said the people, who asked not to be named as the talks were private. The head of parts maker Continental AG also was in attendance, one of the people said.

Ambassador Richard Grenell told participants the U.S. government was seeking talks with the EU and German government with a proposal to reduce tariffs to zero, Handelsblatt reported later. That contrasts with President Donald Trump's proposal last month for a 20 percent levy on imported EU autos, part of his campaign seeking concessions that would lower the U.S. trade deficit. Carmakers and suppliers, including BMW and Continental, have previously said they would favor a bilateral removal of tariffs.

The automakers' initiative coincides with new proposals reportedly being considered by EU officials to stave off a worsening global trade war. Trump has ordered a probe into whether imports of cars and car parts damage national security. He's also engaged in a tit-for-tat escalation with China, which will result in a 40 percent tariff on U.S.-made cars – many of them German brands – shipped into the Asian country.

The proposal being weighed by EU officials would cut tariffs between the world's largest car-exporting nations – including the U.S., South Korea and Japan, the FT reported Wednesday.

Separately, German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier is traveling to Paris next week to help coordinate a new EU initiative for talks with the U.S. on steel tariffs.

Automakers have responded en masse in June to the proposed U.S. tariffs on foreign cars, saying they would harm the U.S. auto industry along with players abroad.

Click here for more background on Trump's threat to European carmakers

The EU isn't allowed under global rules to reduce its 10 percent tariff on American cars unless the bloc either does so for World Trade Organization members as a whole or

reaches a bilateral accord with the U.S. that covers "substantially all" two-way trade.

European trade chief Cecilia Malmstrom said last week there is "no way" EU governments would agree to scrap the bloc's car-import duty for all WTO members, leaving the option of going for a broader commercial deal with the U.S.

The EU unsuccessfully sought a permanent waiver from Trump's metals tariffs imposed in March. As part of those demands, the EU said it was willing to start negotiations with the U.S. on a relatively narrow trade deal focused on eliminating tariffs on industrial goods including cars. The offer went nowhere, according to European officials.

"This is what we offered the American administration, under the condition of course that they did not impose those steel and aluminum tariffs," Malmstrom told reporters in Brussels on June 26. "They rejected that offer."

— With assistance by Elisabeth Behrmann

( Updates with U.S. ambassador comment in fourth paragraph.

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## How Trump's Policy Decisions Undermine The Industries He Pledged To Help

By Coral Davenport, Ana Swanson

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

WASHINGTON — "The assault on the American auto industry is over," President Trump declared last spring in Detroit, promising auto executives that he would throttle back Obama-era regulations on vehicle pollution.

The moment embodied one of Mr. Trump's main political promises — to promote pro-business policies that unshackle industry and the economy. He has pledged to create an oil and gas boom that will spawn "massive new wealth" and to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement to eliminate "big trade barriers" for American products. His new taxes on metal imports "have already had major, positive effects" on classic Rust Belt industries like steel and aluminum, the White House has said.

Even as the president's pro-business stance is broadly embraced by the corporate community, in some significant cases the very industries that Mr. Trump has vowed to help say that his proposals will actually hurt them. They also warn that policies designed to aid one group will eat into someone else's business in ways that policymakers should have anticipated.

"I would like to tell the president, 'Man, you are messing up our market,'" said Kevin Scott, a soybean farmer in South Dakota and the secretary of the American Soybean Association. The idea of changing Nafta, he said, "gives us a lot of heartburn in farm country."

At the same time, Mr. Scott said, China's threat to impose tariffs this week on United States soybeans — in direct response to Mr. Trump's tariffs on other Chinese-made products — is already having a negative affect on the prices farmers see. In recent days, Canada imposed its own retaliatory tariffs against the United States. And on Friday, General Motors warned that Mr. Trump's threat of tariffs on imported cars could backfire, killing American jobs and leading to "a smaller G.M."

Mr. Scott voted for Mr. Trump, and he approves of administration efforts to roll back environmental regulations, "But if we lose those Chinese and Mexican markets, it will be hard to get them back," he said. China and Mexico are the two biggest markets for American soybean exports.

Richard Newell, president of Resources for the Future, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington, described the administration's overall approach as "whack-a-mole policy" that suggests a lack of appreciation of the complexity of global commerce. "The law of unintended consequences abounds," Mr. Newell added.

If nothing else, experts say, the unpredictability of many of Mr. Trump's proposals — the lack of clarity on when or how Nafta might be renegotiated; the risk of potential litigation over his rollback of auto-pollution rules; the ways in which other countries might retaliate against Mr. Trump's tariffs — seeds confusion across the American economy, making it tough for businesses to plan effectively for the future.

"That just wreaks havoc with American farmers and businesses with the investments they have to make," said Mr. Slaughter. "It creates massive uncertainty for these industries."

Automakers, for instance, had sought looser emissions rules. However, Mr. Trump's proposed rollback goes further than expected, and now automakers say it could ultimately spawn years of legal battles and perhaps even subject the industry to more regulations, not fewer, if individual states start enforcing their own, separate rules. They also fear that Mr. Trump's recent threats to impose tariffs on imports of European autos could trigger a trade war, raising prices for all vehicles.

In one recent meeting with Mr. Trump, the chief executive of General Motors, Mary Barra, told the president she would be happy with a deal keeping much of the current Obama-level pollution standards in place, while adding sweeteners for automakers such as financial credits for companies that invent more fuel-efficient technologies, according to two people familiar with the meeting.

Oil and gas companies say a Trump administration proposal to bail out the coal industry will cut into their market share, while steel tariffs make their production equipment costlier. Aluminum makers fear not only a tariff tit-for-tat, but also the looser vehicle-pollution rules, because one way to

make more efficient cars is to make more car parts from lightweight aluminum.

A spokesman for the White House, Raj Shah, acknowledged that while some policies might not always be to the liking of specific industries, "A lot of these groups benefit from broader policies — all these groups benefit from the tax cut and regulatory relief."

"The only constituency the president is looking out for is the American people," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Trump's policies have their strong supporters.

"The steel tariffs, the aluminum tariffs, the auto tariffs, have the potential to put people to work in industries like steel production," said Jeff Ferry, the research director for the Coalition for a Prosperous America, a nonprofit group that advocates closing the United States trade deficit. "The electorate is no longer buying the theories economists are peddling about free trade lifting all boats," Mr. Ferry said.

The president has repeatedly promised to protect metal producers, iconic Rust Belt industries that the administration says are hurt by low-priced imports from countries like China.

American steelworkers have cheered his moves. "The steel tariffs are important to the growth and the survival of the domestic industry because of the massive challenge that global overcapacity presents," said Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing. "There is some evidence that the strategy may be working. You're seeing a number of steel mills come back online."

But not all metal producers agree with the administration's strategy.

"We are disappointed by the broad tariffs on aluminum imports into the United States," said Marco Palmieri, president of Novelis North America, an aluminum maker. "This action does not provide relief from our industry's most significant trade issue, which is subsidized Chinese aluminum overcapacity. Instead, the tariffs bring the unfortunate potential to increase cost for the consumer."

In late March, the Trump administration began imposing a 25 percent tariff on steel and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum from countries including Russia, China, Turkey and Brazil. On June 1, it expanded the levies to include Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

While the steel industry supports the tariffs, the aluminum industry is mostly opposed. The tariffs raise prices for aluminum, which helps smelters, the companies that make raw aluminum here. However, only a handful of smelters still operate in the United States.

The Aluminum Association, which represents the bulk of the American industry, says that 97 percent of American jobs in aluminum are at what are called "downstream" businesses that shape the metal into things like auto parts or other goods. Those companies are hurt by Mr. Trump's tariffs, because they must now pay higher prices for their raw materials.

By contrast, demand for aluminum increased under the stringent Obama-era fuel economy standards, which created a market for more lightweight cars that use aluminum rather than steel. The proposed rollback of the fuel standards will likely hurt aluminum makers, the association said, as will the prospect of a legal fight between the federal government and California, which has promised to continue to enforce the stricter, Obama-era rules.

If California enforces the stricter pollution rules, that would in effect create two separate auto markets. Several other states have pledged to follow California's lead.

"It's quite disruptive to the companies bringing a car to market, and it's disruptive to all of the suppliers of the car companies," said Doug Richman, a technical expert with the Aluminum Association.

Mr. Trump has sought to follow through on campaign promises to help the coal industry, but those efforts are angering oil and natural gas producers.

Mr. Trump has ordered Energy Secretary Rick Perry to "prepare immediate steps" to stop the closing of unprofitable coal and nuclear power plants nationwide. One proposal would order grid operators to buy electricity from struggling coal and nuclear plants for two years, using emergency authority that is normally reserved for crises like natural disasters.

Such a move would cut deeply into the market share for natural gas producers, many of which are also among the nation's largest oil companies — a group Mr. Trump has also sought to support. Mr. Trump's proposal "seems counter to what he campaigned on," said Dan Eberhart, a Trump donor and the owner of Canary LLC, a Phoenix oil field services company. "He campaigned on unleashing America's energy, but this tortured coal policy penalizes natural gas."

Mr. Eberhart added that his business will also likely be hurt by the steel and aluminum tariffs, which "will raise the prices for materials for drilling rigs, pipes." Rival producers in other oil-exporting nations "will not face that," he added.

In coming weeks, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department are expected to jointly propose a new rule to dramatically roll back the Obama-era standard on tailpipe emissions. And Detroit is watching closely.

The Obama rule would have required automakers to roughly double the fuel economy of new cars, S.U.V.s and light trucks by 2025, achieving an average of more than 50 miles per gallon. Since Mr. Trump's inauguration, automakers have complained to him that the Obama standard was too stringent.

But the administration's current proposal would go so far in the opposite direction that, rather than simply loosening the Obama standard, it would likely set off years of litigation, creating regulatory uncertainty for automakers, say people familiar with the draft plan. The proposal, according to people

who have seen it, would both cut back the Obama standard to 35 or 40 miles per gallon, and would pre-empt states from setting their own standards.

That amounts to a direct challenge to California, which has a waiver under the Clean Air Act to impose its own, stricter, air pollution regulations on cars and trucks. California's governor, Jerry Brown, has made clear that he will fight in court.

If California were to prevail, that could lead to the creation of two different sets of auto pollution regulations in the United States — one for California and the dozen or so states that follow it, another for the rest of the country. Automakers describe that as a worst-case scenario they want to avoid.

"We are supporting some level of increased fuel economy year over year," said Gloria Bergquist, a spokeswoman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents many of the world's largest automakers. "Our customers don't want to pay the unnecessary costs of separate regulatory proposals."

Regarding the Trump idea to place tariffs on auto imports, she said: "While we understand that the administration is working to achieve a level playing field, tariffs are not the right approach." They raise prices for car buyers, she said, "and invite retaliatory action by our trading partners."

Executives and lobbyists from the nation's Big Three auto companies have held a flurry of meetings at the White House and E.P.A., asking Mr. Trump and his officials not to move forward with the aggressive rollback of the pollution rules and instead to hammer out a deal with California, according to four people familiar with the meetings.

"The auto industry has always wanted one, rather than two or more standards across the country," said Robert N. Stavins, a professor of environmental economics at Harvard. "This is very troubling to the auto industry."

Still, Mr. Trump's allies and advisers maintain that his moves will benefit the economy overall, even if they hurt some of the industries he said he wanted to help.

"On net, President Trump's efforts to roll back regulations and create a better regulatory climate for all is better for these industries," said Thomas J. Pyle, an adviser to the Trump campaign and president of the Institute for Energy Research, an organization that promotes fossil fuel use.

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## Trump's War On The WTO

**Economic nationalism is a threat to world-wide—  
and American—prosperity.**

By Greg Rushford

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## Top Supreme Court Candidates' Views On Abortion Under Scrutiny

By Andrew Chung

[Reuters](#), July 3, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## The Trump Supreme Court Pick Who'd Pose The Biggest Danger To Abortion Rights

By Ruth Marcus

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

No Supreme Court nominee is a completely safe bet. No one — not even the nominee himself or herself — knows for certain how he or she would rule on a particular case until the moment arises.

When the Supreme Court explicitly weighed overturning *Roe v. Wade* and eliminating constitutional protection for abortion rights in 1992, for instance, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy provided the fifth vote to prevent that outcome. But Kennedy's vote in an abortion case three years earlier made that position surprising — including, perhaps, to the justice himself.

And yet: Of all the potential Supreme Court nominees that President Trump is considering, the one who seems most inclined to undo Kennedy's work and overturn *Roe* as completely and quickly as possible is Amy Coney Barrett, a 46-year-old newly minted (last November) federal appeals court judge.

Maybe any of those on Trump's Federalist Society-vetted list would leap at the chance to dump *Roe*, or at least to interpret the current standard — limits on abortion are permissible if they do not constitute an undue burden — in a way that would drain it of real meaning.

The latter presents a real risk, as another leading contender, federal appeals court judge Brett Kavanaugh, vividly demonstrated in a recent ruling that it was not an undue burden to force a 15-week-pregnant 17-year-old undocumented immigrant to wait to get an abortion while authorities searched for a sponsor for her. Amazingly enough,

Kavanaugh, who complained that the appeals court majority was providing a right to "immediate abortion on demand," is being criticized from the right for not going even farther.

But there remains a big difference between outright overruling and cramped interpretation. And while Barrett has the shortest judicial paper trail of the likely nominees, her academic writings are the equivalent of a flashing neon sign: I'll do it.

This outcome can be predicted from two strands of Barrett's writings. The first is her 1998 article with John H. Garvey, "Catholic Judges in Capital Cases," discussing the ethical obligations faced by judges who are observant Catholics and who are called on to handle death-penalty cases. What comes through in Barrett's discussion is her thoughtfulness, deep commitment to her faith — and moral opposition to abortion.

The article asks how judges, "obliged by oath, professional commitment, and the demands of citizenship to enforce the death penalty" should balance that against the duty "to adhere to their church's teaching on moral matters." Barrett and Garvey ultimately conclude that "if one cannot in conscience affirm a death sentence the proper response is to recuse oneself."

Repeatedly, however, they distinguish between capital punishment and abortion or euthanasia. "Criminals deserve punishment for their crimes; aged and unborn victims are innocent," they write.

And in endorsing judicial recusal, they cite a law review article urging the same result for an anti-abortion judge who is compelled by precedent — and the status of being a lower-court judge — to uphold that right.

"The abortion case is a bit easier, we think," they write. "Both the state and the unborn child's mother are (at least typically) acting with gross unfairness to the unborn child, whereas the moral objection to capital punishment is not that it is unfair to the offender."

Okay, but does that mean Barrett would overturn *Roe*? Here is where the second strand comes in: a series of law review articles in which Barrett outlines her view that the Supreme Court should not be so tightly bound by the doctrine of adhering to precedent — *stare decisis* — especially on matters of constitutional law.

"I tend to agree with those who say that a justice's duty is to the Constitution and that it is thus more legitimate for her to enforce her best understanding of the Constitution rather than a precedent she thinks clearly in conflict with it," Barrett wrote in 2013.

In a 2003 article, Barrett called for a more "flexible" understanding of *stare decisis*, arguing that courts should be less focused, in deciding whether to overrule a case, on so-called reliance interests — the degree to which a decision has been woven into the settled expectations of those affected.

When “a prior decision clearly misinterprets the statutory or constitutional provision it purports to interpret, the court should overrule the precedent,” she writes. “Reliance interests count, but they count far less when precedent clearly exceeds a court’s interpretive authority.”

Reliance interests like, say, what the court plurality relied on in 1992, in deciding not to overrule Roe: “for two decades . . . people have organized intimate relationships . . . in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail.”

Maybe a Justice Barrett would be more cautious than Notre Dame Law School Professor Barrett sounds. Maybe the chief justice would be reluctant to pull the trigger on Roe with just five votes. But this is already a court that has proved its willingness to overrule inconvenient precedents by a single vote. Adding Barrett would pose a clear and present danger to abortion rights.

“However cagey a justice may be at the nomination stage,” Barrett observed in 2013, “her approach to the Constitution becomes evident in the opinions she writes.” By then, of course, it would be too late.

Read more from Ruth Marcus’s archive, follow her on Twitter or subscribe to her updates on Facebook.

## **As Trump Weighs Options, Mike Pence Meets With Court Contenders**

By Associated Press

[Washington Examiner](#), July 4, 2018

Vice President Mike Pence has met with some of the contenders for the Supreme Court vacancy created by Justice Anthony Kennedy’s retirement, the Associated Press has learned.

The meetings took place in recent days, according to a person familiar with the search process. The person did not specify which candidates Pence met with and spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday to describe the private search process.

President Trump has spoken with seven potential candidates and is set to announce his decision on Monday.

Trump has said he’ll choose his nominee from a list of 25 candidates vetted by conservative groups. Top contenders include federal appeals judges Brett Kavanaugh, Raymond Kethledge, Amul Thapar and Amy Coney Barrett — all of whom spoke with Trump on Monday.

Trump has also spoken with Thomas Hardiman, who has served with Trump’s sister on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, according to a person familiar with the conversation who also was not authorized to publicly discuss it.

Another candidate considered a top contender is Joan Larsen, who serves on the federal appeals court in Cincinnati.

The president spoke by phone with Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah on Monday. He’s the only lawmaker on Trump’s list.

Trump’s choice to replace Kennedy — a swing vote on the nine-member court — has the potential to remake the court for a generation as part of precedent-shattering decisions on abortion, health care, gay marriage, and other issues. Recognizing the stakes, many Democrats have lined up in opposition to any Trump pick, and Republican lawmakers and activists are seeking to shape the president’s decision.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has told colleagues he may not vote for Kavanaugh if the judge is nominated, citing Kavanaugh’s role during the Bush administration on cases involving executive privilege and the disclosure of documents to Congress, said a person familiar with Paul’s conversations who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Some conservatives have pointed to Kethledge as a potential justice in the mold of Neil Gorsuch, Trump’s first Supreme Court nominee last year. Both Kethledge and Gorsuch once served Kennedy as law clerks. Kethledge, a Michigan Law graduate, would add academic diversity to a court steeped in the Ivy League.

Since Trump said his short list includes at least two women, speculation has focused on Barrett, a former law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia and a longtime Notre Dame Law School professor who serves on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Conservative groups rallied around Barrett after her confirmation hearing last year featured questioning from Democrats over how her Roman Catholic faith would affect her decisions.

On Wednesday, Sen. Susan Collins, a moderate Republican from Maine, reiterated that she could not vote for a nominee with a “demonstrated hostility” to Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a woman’s right to an abortion.

“I think I’ve made it pretty clear if a nominee has demonstrated hostility to Roe v. Wade and has said that they’re not going to abide by that long-standing precedent, that I could not support that nominee,” Collins told reporters at a holiday parade in Bangor.

But Collins said she also wouldn’t blindly vote to confirm someone she thinks is unworthy in other respects — even if he or she supports Roe v. Wade.

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## **‘It Looks All-American:’ Trump Wants The Whole Package In Supreme Court Nominee**

The search process is playing out like a political campaign, as the president considers a candidate’s

**appearance as well as the look and feel of his or her family.**

By Annie Karni And Eliana Johnson

[Politico](#), July 4, 2018

After meeting Marie Louise Gorsuch and picking up on the easy chemistry between the homemaker and her husband, President Donald Trump requested that she stand next to Neil Gorsuch during his nomination speech to the Supreme Court.

Trump's delight in what he considered the picture-perfect couple, recounted by a Republican close to the White House familiar with the proceedings, is now resurfacing as the process of filling a second Supreme Court opening plays out like a political campaign, with attention to the whole package, including a potential nominee's appearance as well as the look and feel of his or her family.

The process has elite lawyers gaming out what attributes – even those that have nothing to do with a person's qualifications to sit on the nation's highest court – might vault a candidate to the top of Trump's list, and weighing them against the traditional qualifications for the role. What is emerging is a process unique to Trump as potential nominees are increasingly running two different campaigns: one aimed at the president and one aimed at senators.

"Beyond the qualifications, what really matters is, does this nominee fit a central casting image for a Supreme Court nominee, as well as his or her spouse," the Republican close to the White House said. "That's a big deal. Do they fit the role?"

A picture of frontrunner Brett Kavanaugh that has been circulating in Trump circles underscores how what matters to Trump is often very different from what matters to the Senate.

In the photo, Kavanaugh is being sworn in by Justice Kennedy to the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, while his wife, Ashley, dressed in a crisp, pale pink suit and pearls, holds the Bible under his hand and smiles.

"It looks all-American," said one person, who noted that would be a plus in Trump's book. For Kavanaugh, however, the problem stands to his right in the photo: President George W. Bush is smiling, too. And a few questions about the wife in the picture would reveal deep ties to the Bush family.

Kavanaugh rose to serve as Bush's staff secretary, but it's his wife who is closer with the Bush family: she followed George W. Bush to Washington from the Texas Governor's office, served as his personal secretary for years, and has a close, personal relationship with the Bush family – a fact Republicans close to the White House said would be a mark against Kavanaugh in Trump's thinking.

It's a part of Kavanaugh's bio that has nothing to do with his qualifications to become a Supreme Court Justice. But his family's ties to the Bush family are expected to matter

to Trump, who sees that dynasty as the embodiment of the Republican establishment that still doesn't take him seriously.

"There's a primary and there's a general election, and what helps you in one often hurts you in another," said David Lat, the founding editor of the legal news site Above The Law. "Right now, the surrogates for all of these candidates know their audience is the base and the White House."

For example: in Kavanaugh's legal writings on presidential power, he writes that presidents should be excused from responding to criminal charges while in office. That could be a plus for a president whose favorite exclamation is "Witch Hunt!" But it could also be a red flag for Democrats in the Senate who want to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation.

Meanwhile, the woman said to be in second place, Amy Coney Barrett, could face a divisive confirmation hearing in front of the Senate if Democrats choose to grill the devout Catholic about her stance on abortion. For Trump, that's the crux of what makes her a star with his base. But it's her resume that isn't particularly appealing. Barrett is an alumnus of Rhodes College and Notre Dame Law School; she lacks the Harvard and Yale degrees Trump has said he is looking for in a nominee.

In her interview with Trump, Barrett, who only has one year of experience on the bench, performed poorly, according to a second source familiar with the process.

But tapping Barrett could have a galvanizing effect on the president's base. She became a hero to evangelicals last year after a dust-up with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D., Calif.) pressed her about the influence of her Catholicism on her legal opinions. Matthew Continetti, the editor of the Washington Free Beacon, said in a podcast that Barrett's nomination would have the same effect as John McCain's decision in 2008 to nominate Sarah Palin to be his vice presidential nominee: igniting the Republican base as well as the Democratic opposition.

Trump is more interested in "the non-legal, superficial and shallow," said Brian Fallon, executive director of Demand Justice, a new non-profit attempting to influence the Senate on judicial nominees. "He cares about not being a Bush person, an Ivy League background, someone who looks the part and someone who everyone is going to say good things about."

White House spokesman Raj Shah said that was an inaccurate way to think about the process. "The President's nominee to replace Justice Kennedy will have tremendous intellect, judicial temperament, and impeccable qualifications," Shah said. "He or she above all will have a duty to uphold the law and the Constitution."

But Trump's ability to factor in what Fallon calls the "superficial" aspects of a potential nominee's profile, Republicans said, is a luxury bestowed on him by the Federalist Society, which put together a list of qualified

conservative judges for Trump to choose from. As long as he sticks to the list, as he has promised to do, Trump is free to worry about optics and politics, knowing whoever he picks has already been vetted, insiders familiar with the process said.

Leonard Leo, the executive vice president of the Federalist Society who serves as Trump's top judicial adviser, however, dismissed the idea that Kavanaugh would be disqualified because of his wife's close ties to the Bush family. He called the notion "ridiculous."

Another top candidate, Raymond Kethledge, is also seen as on the rise in Trump's sweepstakes – in part because his background is seen as one that is appealing both to Trump and the Senate.

"Kethledge would be very hard to oppose," said Lat. "He went to Michigan for law school – a public university, not Harvard or Yale, but still a brand-name university. He has long experience on the bench, and he's a very likable guy with a super-high EQ – not always the case with federal judges."

Kethledge is also a hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman with a Midwestern background that would be hard for Democrats in the Senate like Sen. Jon Tester or Sen. Heidi Heitkamp – in addition to Trump – to oppose. He also has less of a track record in his writings, which would give the Senate fewer words to poke holes in if he ever reaches the nomination process.

For many following the process, he is seen as the dark horse.

For the president, personal chemistry will also play a role. A source familiar with the interviews Trump conducted last week with candidates said that the president "loved" Kethledge and hit it off with him.

## Trump's Supreme Court Search Unleashes Fierce Politicking

**Much of the oppo effort has focused on D.C. Circuit Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh.**

By Eliana Johnson

[Politico](#), July 4, 2018

President Donald Trump's commitment to select from a widely publicized list of Supreme Court candidates may have helped win him the White House — but it has also injected unprecedented politicking into the selection process for the next justice.

Much of the jockeying has centered on D.C. Circuit Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who is the preferred choice of White House counsel Don McGahn, according to two Republicans close to the White House. McGahn's backing helped Kavanaugh secure a spot on Trump's existing Supreme Court list last November, when the president added five names.

But Kavanaugh is opposed by powerful conservatives, including Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, who has argued that once on the bench, he will disappoint the right.

And his ascendancy to the president's list gave his detractors plenty of time to prepare a campaign against him. Working on the assumption that his connections in the White House and his formidable track record on the prestigious D.C. Circuit would make him a frontrunner, his critics have for months now been circulating negative details and assessments of his record in an effort that more closely resembles a political campaign than a court nomination.

"There's much more overt politicking going on, especially in opposition to candidates by the president's supporters than you've ever seen in the process, and that just illustrates how important this seat is to conservatives," said Shannen Coffin, who served as general counsel to former Vice President Dick Cheney.

The rise of social media and the president's use of it to keep the public abreast of the process has also intensified the process.

The attacks against Kavanaugh have drawn out prominent defenders, including Miguel Estrada, who became a martyr to conservatives after Democrats filibustered his 2001 nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. "All of these attacks on Brett Kavanaugh are deranged," Estrada told National Review on Wednesday.

Travis Lenkner, a former Kavanaugh and Kennedy clerk, said fair-minded conservatives want to make sure Kavanaugh gets a fair shake.

"Judge Kavanaugh's 12-year record of more than 300 opinions on issues of national importance speaks for itself. What you're seeing are efforts by many fair, respected conservatives who are not advocating for one person over another who are going out of their way to ensure that the record is clear and accurate about Judge Kavanaugh," said Lenkner said in an interview.

Kavanaugh has obvious appeal to the president, and the two hit it off during an Oval Office interview on Monday, according to two sources with knowledge of the situation. The judge has not one but two Yale degrees, a fact that has endeared him to the Ivy-League-obsessed president, and he has a broad view of executive power.

Shaped by his experience in the 1990s working alongside former independent counsel Ken Starr, who investigated former President Bill Clinton, Kavanaugh has argued that presidents should be shielded from lawsuits and criminal investigations.

Kavanaugh is also a lifelong D.C. resident with legions of fans in the capital, including many of his former law clerks, and a web of powerful and connected friends across the city.

"He's obviously brilliant and a great judge. But to me, for a job like this, integrity and backbone are the most important qualities. And he's got those in spades," said J.D.

Vance, the bestselling author and a former Kavanaugh student. Vance took to the Wall Street Journal op-ed page on Monday to make “The Case for Brett Kavanaugh.”

But the judge’s detractors are working to bring other parts of his record to light, from his ties to the George W. Bush administration to a 2011 ruling that they argue paved the way for the Supreme Court to legalize Obamacare and finally to his friendship and collaboration with a prominent judge disgraced during the #MeToo movement.

Kavanaugh’s critics have circulated a six-page opposition research document tying him to former 9th Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, who abruptly retired in December after several of his former female clerks accused him of sexual harassment.

The document argues it is virtually impossible Kavanaugh, who served on a screening committee for Kennedy’s Supreme Court clerkship alongside Kozinski, was unaware of Kozinski’s behavior — though nobody has stepped forward to make that explosive allegation in public.

Kavanaugh clerked for Kozinski nearly three decades ago, early in his time on the bench and before Kozinski is accused of having spoken and behaved inappropriately toward women. But the two have maintained a fruitful professional collaboration for years after.

“After these allegations were reported in the press last year, I spoke with various former Kozinski clerks – including Judge Kavanaugh. None of us, including Judge Kavanaugh, had heard of any of these troubling allegations,” said one former Kozinski clerk.

Kavanaugh declined to comment for this article.

Kavanaugh’s detractors are also drawing attention to his ties to George W. Bush, whose administration and family are anathema to Trump. To the president, being a “Bushie” means being the sort of country club Republican his supporters love to hate, and charges of loyalty to the former president have tripped up the hiring process of more than a few candidates to senior White House positions.

Over the past year, Trump has railed against Kirstjen Nielsen, the former Bush administration official who now runs the Department of Homeland Security, accusing her of being insufficiently tough on immigration.

Kavanaugh found both professional and personal success in the Bush administration, which landed him in his current post. After serving as staff secretary during Bush’s first term, Bush nominated him to the D.C. Circuit Court in 2003. The following year, in 2004, Kavanaugh married Ashley Estes, Bush’s longtime personal secretary.

Conservatives have also fixated on a 2011 challenge to Obamacare where Kavanaugh ruled that the individual mandate functioned as a tax and invoked an 1867 law preventing individuals from challenging taxes before they have gone into effect. (The individual mandate went into effect in 2014.) But he also advised that, whatever its

constitutional shortcomings, “Congress could eliminate any such potential problem.”

On the right, critics have blasted him for providing a “roadmap” to save Obamacare.

“Conservatives might argue amongst themselves about which is worse: An unelected judge opining on how a mandate to purchase a product could meet constitutional muster, or that same unelected judge giving Congress instructions on how to ensure it will,” Chris Jacobs, a former Heritage Foundation scholar and policy adviser to Bobby Jindal, wrote in *The Federalist*.

On a call with associates on Monday, Cruz warned that Kavanaugh is the sort of “unreliable” jurist by whom Republicans have been disappointed in the past, and he has worked to bolster the prospects of his colleague, Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah). Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) also spoke to the president about the merits and drawbacks of each nominee, including Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh’s supporters — and even neutral parties — are mobilizing in response to what they view as a slew of unjustified accusations as well as an unparalleled level of mud-throwing ahead of a nomination.

Ed Whalen, the president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, originally said he would not comment on the contenders until the president had selected a nominee. Whalen is working closely with Leonard Leo, the *Federalist Society*’s executive vice president who is guiding the president’s search, and committed himself to neutrality, but he took to writing a series of blog posts on Wednesday in Kavanaugh’s defense “given the exceptional trashing” he has received.

“In his years on the D.C. Circuit, Judge Kavanaugh has confronted a vast array of consequential and high-profile constitutional and statutory issues and has written strong and influential opinions on these issues: on the separation of powers, administrative law, national security, the Second Amendment, religious liberty, campaign finance, international law, environmental law, antitrust, criminal law, immigration, and so much more,” Whalen wrote. “Kavanaugh’s constitutional opinions are powerfully written and are deeply grounded in text, history, and structure.”

## **Liberal Democrats Mount Campaign Against Trump’s Supreme Court Nominee By Targeting Two Republican Senators**

By Michael Scherer

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

Liberal political strategists hope to block President Trump’s next Supreme Court nominee by replaying a strategy they used to help defeat the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act last year.

The multimillion-dollar plan of advertising and grass-roots activism will focus heavily on convincing two Republican defenders of the ACA, Sens. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and Susan Collins (Maine), to buck the president again by denying his first choice to replace retiring Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. Trump plans to reveal his selection Monday.

One group, Demand Justice, plans to launch a \$5 million campaign Thursday with ads in both senators' states focused on the possibility that the next justice will provide the majority vote to allow states to ban abortion, overturning the 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*. NARAL Pro-Choice America announced plans Tuesday to take out full-page ads in four Maine newspapers highlighting the issue.

"We have a particular success with Murkowski and Collins, obviously, in the ACA fight," said Brad Woodhouse, the executive director of Protect our Care, a liberal umbrella group that did organizing around the fights in 2017 over what had been President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement. "So we kind of understand how to do the work in those states."

Republicans have 51 votes in the Senate and need 50 votes to confirm Trump's nominee, assuming Vice President Pence votes with them to break a tie. If Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) does not return to vote after months of absence fighting cancer and Democrats hold together in opposition, a single Republican defection could sink the nominee.

The advertising and organizing effort will face a large counterattack from conservative groups. The Judicial Crisis Network has promised to undertake its own advertising campaign, focusing on Democratic senators in states that Trump won in 2016 who are facing reelection in the fall. The group spent about \$10 million in an effort to ease the confirmation of Trump's first Supreme Court pick, Neil M. Gorsuch, and has not yet announced a budget for a second nominee.

"I think it will not be an easy one for Democrats in those states to simply say, 'I am going to tack hard left,'" said Carrie Severino, the chief counsel and policy director of the group. "We are not attacking Collins and Murkowski at all. They were supportive of Gorsuch and we think they will be supportive here."

The Democrats' targets include Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, all of whom voted for Gorsuch.

The liberal strategy, which employs multiple staff members in each state, will include generating letters to the editor, sending people to the senators' events and organizing phone calls to their offices.

The groups plan to argue that any Trump nominee from his preselected list would be a vote on the high court that will again allow abortion to be outlawed in every state and undo the ACA's mandate that health insurers not discriminate against people with preexisting conditions.

"We have had support in the past from Senators Collins and Murkowski around the defunding of Planned Parenthood, around the protection of *Roe v. Wade*, and we believe that is a very important piece of this puzzle," said Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of Planned Parenthood.

The liberal groups also plan to focus advertising and organizing on the states of the three Democratic senators who voted for Gorsuch. All three come from states where opposition to abortion is strong, and all face tough reelection fights this fall.

Liberals hope that concern about the ACA proves decisive with these senators as well. Demand Justice, an umbrella group that includes Planned Parenthood and NARAL, will start airing ads Tuesday in all three of those states, arguing that Trump's pick will determine whether insurance companies can discriminate against people with preexisting medical conditions.

The Justice Department joined a federal lawsuit in June to argue that the recent legislative repeal of the ACA's individual mandate invalidates provisions of the law that ban insurers from charging more or denying coverage to people with preexisting conditions. That case could eventually reach the Supreme Court, where the last decision to let ACA stand, in 2012, came on a 5-to-4 vote, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joining more liberal justices to protect the law.

One Nation, the public policy arm of the main Republican Senate advertising effort, Senate Majority PAC, also has announced plans to run spots against vulnerable Democratic senators in states that Trump won, though no budget has been made public.

"Will Joe Donnelly cave to the extreme left?" ran the tag-line of one digital ad that One Nation posted last week.

Antiabortion groups also plan to organize in key states to pressure Democratic senators. The Susan B. Anthony List has 104 canvassers in Indiana, who have been going door to door to organize opposition to Donnelly.

"The pro-life movement is strongest when we are talking to them one-to-one," said Mallory Quigley, a spokeswoman for the group.

Donnelly, who opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother, told the Indianapolis Star that it was too soon to say how he would vote on the nominee, while declining to say whether *Roe* should be overturned. "It's the law of the land," he said last week.

Manchin, who opposes abortion with the same exceptions as Donnelly, suggested in a radio interview Friday that Trump should avoid picking a justice who will overturn *Roe*.

"If he picks somebody that's hardcore on *Roe v. Wade* or that hardcore on repealing health care, that's a bigger lift," Manchin said.

Heitkamp, who has argued that reproductive decisions should be left to a woman, her family and her doctor, does support a ban on federal funding of abortion in most cases. And she said she wants to do a "thorough vetting" of the president's nominee before making a decision.

At the core of the liberal argument is the idea that any of the president's nominees will be tainted if they come from a list he announced during the campaign. Trump also announced during the campaign that if he put two or three justices on the court, an overturn of Roe "will happen automatically, in my opinion."

"Our point to Susan Collins is stop going around and pretending that there is some magic question that is going to give you legitimate reassurance [that the nominee will protect Roe]," said Brian Fallon, who is leading Demand Justice. "If they came from the list, it's fruit of the poisonous tree."

Collins has suggested that she has a different view. "I would not support a nominee who demonstrated hostility to Roe v. Wade," she told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. But she also has said she has not ruled out voting for someone from Trump's list, saying that although there are some she would not support, she first wants to hear their views on upholding precedent.

During the debate last year over the ACA, Collins made clear her objections to blocking federal funds for Planned Parenthood, which other Republicans had inserted as part of an effort to weaken the organization, a major provider of abortion services.

Murkowski also said she was committed to protecting continued funding of the group. Since Kennedy announced his retirement, she has called for "exacting scrutiny" of his replacement. "His retirement is a historic moment for the court because he was the swing vote in so many decisions of great consequence," she said in a statement.

The fight for the favor of individual senators will take place amid a much broader effort by Democrats and Republicans alike to energize voters around the confirmation process for the nominee. The Alliance for Justice, a liberal group that focuses on Supreme Court nomination fights and vetting, plans to elevate the nominee's record on federal regulatory law as part of an attempt to raise civil rights, labor and environmental issues.

Underlying it all is an awareness that the political environment is combustible and unpredictable. Nan Aron, the founder and president of the Alliance for Justice, cited past court nominee fights as instructive, noting that successful opposition to conservative Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork in 1987 led to the appointment of a moderate Kennedy.

"Everyone knows what is at stake this time," she said. "As the fight to save the ACA demonstrated, when people are galvanized enough to pressure Democrats and Republicans, you can have an effect."

## Trump Winnows Down Supreme Court Picks, Focusing On Three

**Front-runners are appeals court judges Brett Kavanaugh of Maryland, Raymond Kethledge of Michigan and Amy Coney Barrett of Indiana**

By Peter Nicholas And Louise Radnofsky

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## Inside The Christian Legal Powerhouse That Keeps Winning At The Supreme Court

By Jessica Contrera

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

Two days before the announcement of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's retirement, a woman who stood to gain from it was on the steps of the Supreme Court once again. Kristen Waggoner's blond bob was perfectly styled with humidity-fighting paste she'd slicked onto it that morning at the Trump hotel. Her 5-foot frame was heightened by a pair of nude pumps, despite a months-old ankle fracture in need of surgery. On her wrist was a silver bracelet she'd worn nonstop since Dec. 5, 2017, the day she marched up these iconic steps, stood before the justices and argued that a Christian baker could legally refuse to create a cake for a gay couple's wedding.

Her job was to be the legal mind and public face of Alliance Defending Freedom., an Arizona-based Christian conservative legal nonprofit better known as ADF. Though far from a household name, the results of ADF's work are well known. Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission was just one of ADF's cases at the Supreme Court this term. The organization has had nine successful cases before the court in the past seven years, including Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, which allowed corporations to opt out of covering contraceptives based on religious beliefs. And it was ADF that created model legislation for "bathroom bills," which bar students from using restrooms that don't correlate to their sex at birth.

Opponents say ADF is seeking to enshrine discrimination into law. But to its supporters, ADF is fighting for the right of Christians to openly express their faith — and winning.

Or as ADF's CEO, Michael Farris, put it: "We would say the combination of hard work and God's blessing appears to be paying off."

With Donald Trump in the White House, a savvy media strategy boosting donations and a new Supreme Court justice on the way, ADF is poised to become more influential than ever.

But first, Waggoner was about to find out whether the organization had a chance of returning to the court for

another high-profile battle. ADF's win in Masterpiece was considered to be a narrow ruling. The justices avoided the case's central question — whether the business owner had the right to decline to make a creation for a same-sex wedding — but acknowledged it would have to be answered someday, in some future case.

If Waggoner has her way, that day will come soon, and the case will be one of hers. ADF has four cases pending in the lower courts regarding Christian business owners who will serve gay people but won't make custom creations for same-sex weddings. On this morning in late June, the court was going to decide the fate of one of them: Barronelle Stutzman, a florist from Washington state.

Lower courts had ruled unanimously against her. Because the justices had just ruled in Masterpiece, they were unlikely to take her case immediately. Waggoner knew they could decline to touch it altogether. Or they could order the Washington courts to give Stutzman a do-over — giving ADF a clear path back to the Supreme Court.

Waggoner kept her eyes on her phone, where the SCOTUSblog website was posting minute-by-minute updates about what was happening inside the court. News cameras waited for her reaction. Her silver bracelet dangled on her wrist. It was engraved with a line from the Bible's Book of Esther: "For such a time as this." Nine Supreme Court cases in seven years and ADF had won them all. She was hoping it was such a time that God would grant them another.

Seven months earlier, in a D.C. hotel room, Waggoner's 15-year-old daughter, Grace, awoke in a panic. An alarm clock was going off, and beside her, her mom was still asleep. With her father, brother and grandparents, Grace had flown in from Arizona to be here for this morning, the most important day in her mom's career. They all had to be at the Supreme Court with the baker, Jack Phillips, in just a few hours. Grace started shaking her mom awake.

"I had purposely set the alarm for 10 minutes early and I had a second alarm set," Waggoner said, laughing as she told the story. "But it was very sweet."

This work had long been a family affair for the 45-year-old attorney, who grew up in Longview, Wash., as the daughter of a Christian school superintendent. She credits her father with instilling the values and views that populate the 121 active cases she oversees at ADF, where there are 63 lawyers operating on a budget of more than \$50 million.

To describe these cases is to traffic in loaded language. ADF regularly sues colleges for creating versions of "safe spaces" that it sees as First Amendment violations. What some people call birth control, ADF calls "abortion-inducing drugs" and argues that the government is forcing those who oppose abortion to provide them. Allowing transgender students into their chosen bathrooms is, to ADF, failing to protect the privacy of the majority of students.

Asked whether she believes it is possible for a person to be transgender, Waggoner said she believes "it is possible to be confused about your gender." Waggoner answers all questions about her work, even on the most contentious of issues, with a smile. Her colleagues say she is always, always smiling. Her incessant pleasantness can come off as strategic, a way of dismantling those trying to paint her as cruel or intolerant. She says joy is just the mark of a person of faith.

Critics point to LGBT-disparaging rhetoric from the man who helped found ADF in the 1990s as proof of what the organization is really after. The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies ADF as a "hate group," a claim ADF has responded to by calling the SPLC a "radical leftist organization."

"Whether they are truly committed to religious freedom, or whether they are using it as a way to package and sell their opposition to homosexuals and abortion, I don't know," said the American Civil Liberties Union's David Cole, who represented the gay couple in Masterpiece.

Those at ADF believe their positions on same-sex marriage and abortion should be irrelevant when it comes to the First Amendment. In court briefs, press releases and interviews, they repeat mantras such as "Tolerance is a two-way street" and "If we want freedom for ourselves, we must extend it to others." In other words, it doesn't matter if you don't agree with the baker's views. The government can't force him to express something that goes against them.

But what counts as expression? When Waggoner stood before the justices in December, they bombarded her with rapid-fire versions of this question. A pre-made cake in the cooler? Not expression, Waggoner assured them. The person who designs the invitations? That would be expression, she said. How about the hairstylist? The menu designer? The jeweler? Her answers came just as fast: No. Yes. It depends.

"Who else then?" Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked. "Say the person who does floral arranging, who owns a floral shop?"

Thinking of Stutzman, Waggoner smiled. She was ready to answer the question.

The florist herself was in the back of the courtroom. ADF had flown her in to watch, a preview of what she might one day face. Stutzman and her husband had spent hours waiting in line to get a seat inside, but ended up sitting so far back, she couldn't make out what the justices were saying. She tried to glean meaning from their body language instead.

Because of the baker's case, her own case had been put on hold. Again. It had been five years since she had declined to make floral arrangements for the wedding of her client Rob Ingersoll, since the attorney general of Washington state had sued her and the shop she inherited from her mother, Arlene's Flowers. Five years of hate mail, of vile phone calls, of going on TV to say again and again: "I serve

everybody who comes in my shop” and “Because my faith teaches me that marriage is between a man and a woman, that just wasn’t something I could do for Rob.”

Constantly putting Stutzman before the media is Waggoner’s strategy, which became ADF’s strategy when she was put in charge of their legal division in 2014. Each big case — the printer who won’t make shirts for a pride parade, the teen girl who feels unsafe with “a man” in her school bathroom, the pregnancy centers accused of misleading women — gets a mini-documentary about their personal journeys and dedication to their faith.

“If we can’t show their souls to people, their constitutional freedoms will falter,” Waggoner said. “We have to show what is at stake.”

Come June, as Waggoner was on the steps of the Supreme Court, Stutzman was waiting for the news of her case’s future in her shop in Washington state. She was sorting bills in her office. Her desk was filled with cards, letters and Bibles sent from her supporters, her favorite of which was from a youth group. She was always worrying whether the next generation has what it takes to defend their faith.

Just after 6:30 a.m., her phone rang. She braced herself for the news.

“GVR,” Waggoner shouted into her ear. “GVR!”

Stutzman knew what that meant: Grant, vacate, remand. The case was coming back to Washington state. Her previous losses no longer mattered. They still had a chance.

“The videographer will be at the shop at 7:30,” Waggoner said. They needed to film a reaction video to send to reporters. Then would come a media call, a few more interviews, a two-hour drive to Spokane so she could appear on Fox News the next morning. An earnest plea for donations would appear on the ADF website: “The threat to Barronelle’s religious freedom is a threat to your religious freedom.”

The next morning, Waggoner was back on the Supreme Court steps to hold a news conference celebrating ADF’s second win of the term, *NIFLA v. Becerra*, a case about California’s mandate that religious pregnancy centers notify women that the state provides free or low-cost access to abortions.

She stepped up to the podium and read a line from the majority opinion, written by Justice Kennedy.

“Government must not be allowed to force persons to express a message contrary to their deepest convictions,” she read. That line, she was sure, was going to help Stutzman and so many of ADF’s cases.

The next day, a great week got better. At the news of Kennedy’s retirement, Waggoner whooped, loudly, in the middle of the law office. ADF quickly put out a press release: It looked forward to a justice who would uphold “the original public meaning of the Constitution.” That night, Waggoner and her daughter went to dinner and a movie in celebration of

a week — a year, really — that had gone in their favor. Then, back in her room in the Trump hotel, she returned to her work.

## **Lawsuit Linking Trump To Leak Of Democratic Emails Tossed Out On Procedural Grounds**

By John Bacon

[USA Today](#), July 4, 2018

A federal judge in Washington has tossed out a lawsuit claiming President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign conspired with Russian agents and WikiLeaks to publish emails hacked from the Democratic National Committee.

However, Judge Ellen Huvelle wrote that her ruling was “not based on a finding that there was no collusion between defendants and Russia during the 2016 presidential election.”

The ruling came hours after the Senate Intelligence Committee said it agreed with U.S. intelligence agencies that the Russian government tried to undercut Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton while promoting Trump during the 2016 presidential election.

Huvelle, an appointee of former President Bill Clinton, said the conspiracy claims in the lawsuit centered around meetings between Trump staffers and Russian operatives in New York, making New York the proper place for the lawsuit. New York, however, does not recognize the specific tort claims pressed in the suit.

The suit was filed on behalf of DNC donors Eric Schoenberg and Roy Cockrum and former DNC staffer Scott Comer. It claims the hack invaded their privacy, attempted to inflict emotional distress and violated their right to support the candidate of their choice.

More: Senate panel says Russia intervened in 2016 election to help Trump

More: House panel subpoenas FBI agent who wrote anti-Trump texts

The lawsuit alleges that computer hackers working on behalf of the Russian government hacked into the email systems of the DNC and obtained “voluminous amounts of data,” including emails and other documents sent to and from thousands of individuals.

They claim the hack was “part of a deliberate campaign to interfere in the U.S. election and tilt its outcome in favor of Donald Trump” and that the Trump campaign, specifically former operative Roger Stone, conspired with unidentified Russian agents and WikiLeaks to publish hacked emails.

Almost 20,000 emails were published in July 2016, days before the start of the Democratic National Convention. Some suggested that the Democratic National Committee had been working behind the scenes to ensure Clinton was nominated over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz ultimately resigned under pressure amid the ensuing controversy.

Protect Democracy, which filed the suit, said it was examining its options regarding an appeal or refiling somewhere else.

"While we are disappointed in and respectfully disagree with today's decision from the District Court to dismiss this case on the grounds that it does not belong in Washington, D.C., this case is far from over," the group said in a statement.

U.S. intelligence agencies, in a 2017 report, wrote that Russian President Vladimir Putin "ordered an influence campaign backing Trump in the 2016 election. The report said Moscow had a "clear preference" for Trump and sought to undercut Clinton while also undermining the U.S. democratic process.

Trump has conducted an unrelenting social media attack on a separate, criminal investigation led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into the allegations.

## **Judge Tosses Suit Alleging Trump Campaign Conspired With Russia In DNC Hack**

By Josh Gerstein

[Politico](#), July 3, 2018

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit alleging that President Donald Trump's campaign and former Trump adviser Roger Stone conspired with Russia and WikiLeaks to publish hacked Democratic National Committee emails during the 2016 presidential race.

U.S. District Court Judge Ellen Huvelle said in a ruling Tuesday evening that the suit's efforts to tie the Trump campaign and Stone's alleged actions to the nation's capital were too flimsy for the case to proceed in a Washington, D.C., court.

"The Trump Campaign's efforts to elect President Trump in D.C. are not suit-related contacts for those efforts did not involve acts taken in furtherance of the conspiracies to disseminate emails that harmed plaintiffs," wrote Huvelle, an appointee of President Bill Clinton. "Campaign meetings, canvassing voters, and other regular business activities of a political campaign do not constitute activities related to the conspiracies alleged in the complaint."

But Huvelle made clear that her decision was a technical one based on issues of legal jurisdiction and was not a definitive ruling on allegations that the Trump campaign struck an illicit deal with the Russians during the presidential contest.

"It bears emphasizing that this Court's ruling is not based on a finding that there was no collusion between defendants and Russia during the 2016 presidential election," Huvelle wrote. "This is the wrong forum for plaintiffs' lawsuit. The Court takes no position on the merits of plaintiffs' claims."

Two DNC donors, Roy Cuckrum and Eric Schoenberg, and former DNC staffer Scott Comer, filed the suit last year,

alleging that the hacking invaded their privacy and that the Trump campaign and Stone had a role in unlawful activity.

Stone, who worked both as a formal and informal adviser to the Trump campaign, exchanged digital messages during the election with WikiLeaks and Guccifer 2.0, an online persona that U.S. officials have said was a Russian front for disseminating the stolen DNC files. Various meetings between Trump aides and Kremlin-linked individuals have also come out since the election.

The DNC was not a party to the suit the two donors and the former staffer filed last July. However, in April of this year, the DNC brought its own lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan, accusing the Russian government, the Trump campaign, Trump's son Donald Jr., Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and various other figures of roles in events related to the hacking. That case is still in its early stages.

The Trump resistance group Protect Democracy, which filed the suit dismissed Tuesday, suggested it might refile the case elsewhere.

"While we are disappointed in and respectfully disagree with today's decision from the District Court to dismiss this case on the grounds that it does not belong in Washington, D.C., this case is far from over," Protect Democracy's Ian Bassin said in a statement. "It is clear that the the Court recognizes that there is sufficient evidence to suggest a conspiracy between the Trump Campaign and the Kremlin, but believes this case belongs in a different court. What today's decision indicates is that the merits of this case will proceed somewhere."

Attorneys for the Trump campaign and Stone did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

## **Anti-Trump FBI Agent May Ignore Congressional Subpoena, His Lawyer Says**

By Chuck Ross

[Daily Caller](#), July 4, 2018

Embattled FBI agent Peter Strzok may ignore a subpoena demanding his testimony before Congress July 10, his lawyer said Tuesday.

"My client will testify soon, somewhere, sometime. We just got this subpoena today, so I don't know whether or not we are going to be testifying next Tuesday in front of these two particular House subcommittees," Aitan Goelman, the attorney for Strzok, told CNN's Chris Cuomo Tuesday.

The House Judiciary and House Oversight and Government Reform Committees subpoenaed Strzok on Tuesday to testify at a joint hearing hosted by the committees on July 10. (RELATED: House Committees Subpoena Peter Strzok To Testify Publicly)

Strzok, who was a top FBI investigator on the Hillary Clinton email investigation as well as the Russia probe, appeared for a closed-door session before both committees

June 27. He was quizzed over his involvement in both investigations as well as anti-Trump text messages he exchanged with his mistress, a former FBI attorney named Lisa Page.

Strzok served on Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team until July 2017, when his text messages were found. Republicans have zeroed in on the text messages, saying that Strzok's overt bias might have influenced his actions on the Clinton and Russia investigations.

Strzok told Page that "we'll stop" Trump from becoming president in one Aug. 8, 2016 text.

Prior to the private session in late June, Goelman offered Strzok up for a public hearing, but the attorney retracted the offer over what he fears is "a trap" set by House Republicans.

In a statement issued to CNN on Monday, Goelman accused Republicans of having "sharpened their knives" against Strzok in the closed deposition in preparation for a public hearing.

Goelman told Cuomo on Tuesday he believes the House GOP inquiry "is not a search for truth."

"It is a chance for Republican members of the House to preen and posture before their most radical, conspiracy-minded constituents," said Goelman. (RELATED: Goodlatte: FBI Lawyers Instructed Strzok Not To Answer 'Many, Many' Questions In Closed Hearing)

"From our experience with the committee thus far, it is obvious that they don't want the truth. They don't want to hear what Pete has to say."

If Strzok skips Tuesday's hearing, he could potentially be held in contempt of Congress.

## **FBI's Peter Strzok May Ignore House Subpoena, Says His Lawyer**

By Anna Giaritelli

[Washington Examiner](#), July 4, 2018

Peter Strzok, the former FBI agent who vowed to "stop" President Trump from winning the 2016 election despite being part of a federal investigation into his campaign, may not show up to testify next week despite being subpoenaed.

"My client will testify soon, somewhere, sometime. We just got this subpoena today, so I don't know whether or not we are going to be testifying next Tuesday in front of these two particular House subcommittees," Aitan Goelman, Strzok's attorney, told CNN's Chris Cuomo.

Goelman said he could not automatically respond "yes" because the two "have come to the conclusion, forced to come to the conclusion, that this is not a search for truth, it is a chance for Republican members of the House to preen and posture before their most radical, conspiracy-minded constituents."

The House Judiciary and Oversight committees sent Strzok the request earlier Tuesday. Goelman initially said his client preferred a public hearing after portions of his first testimony, an 11-hour event held behind closed doors, were leaked by the Republican-controlled committee.

"From our experience with the committee thus far, it is obvious that they don't want the truth. They don't want to hear what Pete has to say," the lawyer added.

The second hearing was called so lawmakers could hear more about Strzok's experience working on the federal probe into Hillary Clinton's private email server and relationship Trump's campaign had with Russia during the 2016 campaign.

A June report by the Department of Justice inspector general concluded that Strzok's text messages to his work colleague and mistress, Lisa Page, about preventing Trump winning the election did not affect the agency's ability to investigate Trump properly.

## **'My Silence Is Broken!': Michael Cohen Says Russian Collusion Charges Against Him Are False**

By Rowan Scarborough

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

Trump personal attorney Michael Cohen distanced himself from the president during an ABC News exclusive interview, but on one point he remains unchanged: He played no role in Russian government election interference.

Trump people tell The Washington Times they do not believe Mr. Cohen has incriminating information on President Trump.

The Cohen fall, from prosperous Trump confidant to federal criminal target estranged from the White House, is playing out this way.

He invited ABC anchor George Stephanopoulos for a no-video chat on Saturday, which the news anchor relayed to the public from notes on Monday's "Good Morning America."

Mr. Cohen once said he would take bullet for Mr. Trump.

But he told Mr. Stephanopoulos, "My wife, my daughter and my son have my first loyalty and always will. I put family and country first."

"My silence is broken!" he tweeted in promoting the GMA spot.

But if Trump detractors hope he will implicate the campaign in a parallel probe — Russia collusion — the chances appear slim. Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Cohen again denied any involvement with Russian officials on 2016 election computer hacking or social media "fake news."

What is Mr. Cohen's strategy?

Trump allies say he may be pressuring the president from afar to pay his legal fees.

The White House position is that Mr. Trump has done nothing wrong, as a decades-long businessman, political candidate and now president.

Asked if Mr. Cohen will accuse the president, a Trump ally said, "He is empty. Total counterfeit. He's trying to stay out of jail."

ABC News said his legal team has severed ties with Trump's lawyers. Such maneuvering can signal a probe target is ready to discuss a plea deal.

To Mr. Stephanopoulos, Mr. Cohen offered no defense of Mr. Trump and disagreed with the president's characterization that special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe is a "witch hunt."

Mr. Cohen is under investigation by the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan over election-year hush payments paid to porn star Stormy Daniels. She says she had an affair with Mr. Trump a decade ago.

Mr. Cohen also set up a consulting business shortly after Mr. Trump's win. The lawyer snared huge contracts from corporations wanting to know how to deal with the new man at the White House.

The FBI raided his office, home and hotel room, seizing documents and computer devices.

Still, on the Russia front, Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Cohen maintains to this day that Russian collusion charges against him are false.

Mr. Stephanopoulos, at one-time a strategist for former President Bill Clinton, did not say during the broadcast from where those charges arose.

But they are contained in a dossier financed by the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign and Democratic Party. Composed by ex-British spy Christopher Steele, the June-December memos level unverified criminal charges of Russian-Trump conspiracies. Mr. Steele sourced the charges to unidentified Kremlin figures. No charge to date has been substantiated publicly.

Mr. Steele's most sensational charge is that Mr. Cohen traveled secretly to Prague in August 2016 to engineer a coverup of Trump-Russia computer hacking into Democratic computers. He supposedly met with Russian President Vladimir Putin's close lieutenants.

From the day the BuzzFeed news site published the dossier on Jan. 17, 2017, Mr. Cohen has denied all its charges. He said he was in California visiting his son during parts of August.

Mr. Cohen may not believe the Mueller probe is a witch hunt, but when it comes to him personally he believes he has been mistreated.

Mr. Cohen tweeted on June 28,

"My family & I are owed an apology. After 2 years, 15 hours of testimony before House & Senate under oath & producing more than 1000 documents, dossier misreports 15

allegations about me. My entire statement must be quoted- I had nothing to do with Russian collusion or meddling!"

He didn't identify who owes him an apology. His accusers are Mr. Steele, various Democrats and elements of the liberal news media.

Glenn Simpson, a co-founder of Fusion GPS that hired Mr. Steele, still claims that Mr. Steele went to Prague. He has suggested in congressional testimony that the lawyer used a yacht and Russian aircraft.

Mr. Mueller is investigating Mr. Cohen on Russian-related events, such as a failed attempt to build a hotel in Moscow and his handling of an unofficial proposed peace deal for Ukraine, according to The Washington Post.

## **Cohen Scrubs Trump Affiliation From Twitter Bio**

By Mark Moore

[New York Post](#), July 4, 2018

Michael Cohen scrubbed the reference "personal attorney to President Donald J. Trump" from his Twitter biography on Wednesday just days after he went on television to declare that his first loyalty is to his family.

Cohen, who once famously said he'd "take a bullet" for the president, made the change on his Twitter page but still describes himself as "Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump" on his LinkedIn page.

Cohen, who's under criminal investigation by federal prosecutors in Manhattan, told ABC News in an interview that "my wife, my daughter and my son have my first loyalty and always will. I put my family and country first."

The change on Cohen's Twitter page was first reported by Newsweek.

The interview, which aired Monday, was the first time he's spoken publicly since FBI agents, acting on a referral from special counsel Robert Mueller, raided his office, apartment and hotel room in search of documents related to his hush-money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels less than two weeks before the 2016 election.

Cohen paid Daniels \$130,000 as part of a non-disclosure agreement to keep her silence about an affair she alleges she had with Trump in 2006.

The Trump Organization turned over 1.3 million items seized during the raid to the federal government after examining them to determine whether they contained information protected by attorney-client privilege.

The items can now be used by prosecutors in the Southern District of New York who are investigating Cohen for possible bank and wire fraud, and campaign finance violations.

Cohen has not been charged.

## Michael Cohen Drops Trump Attorney Label On Twitter

By Eli Watkins

[CNN](#), July 4, 2018

Washington (CNN)Michael Cohen dropped the reference “personal attorney to President Donald J. Trump” from his Twitter biography on Wednesday, days after he spoke to ABC News about his legal situation.

The change on Twitter was not immediately accompanied by a change on his LinkedIn page, where he is described as “Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump,” and his Twitter account still includes a hyperlink to his LinkedIn page.

Cohen’s longtime relationship with Trump has taken on increased importance since the FBI raided him in early April and prosecutors disclosed he had been under criminal investigation for months.

Cohen has admitted to facilitating a hush payment to the porn star Stormy Daniels to keep her silent about her claims of a decade-old affair with Trump, and the President’s attorney Rudy Giuliani said in May that Trump had reimbursed Cohen. CNN reported later in May that following Trump’s election victory, Cohen pitched himself to major companies as a point man for access to Trump.

Cohen has famously said he would take a bullet for Trump and he has fashioned himself as Trump’s “fixer,” willing to help handle situations quietly. But the ABC interview raised new questions about his allegiance to Trump amid his legal troubles and subsequent isolation from the President’s inner circle.

CNN previously reported that Cohen has signaled to friends he is “willing to give” information on Trump to prosecutors, and the lawyer told ABC News in the interview published Monday that he puts his “family and country” before his loyalty to Trump.

He likewise broke with Trump’s criticism of federal investigators.

“I don’t agree with those who demonize or vilify the FBI. I respect the FBI as an institution, as well as their agents,” Cohen said. “When they searched my hotel room and my home, it was obviously upsetting to me and my family. Nonetheless, the agents were respectful, courteous and professional. I thanked them for their service and as they left, we shook hands.”

CNN’s Maegan Vazquez contributed to this report.

## US Official: Trump Pressed Aides About Venezuela Invasion

By Joshua Goodman

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

As a meeting last August in the Oval Office to discuss sanctions on Venezuela was concluding, President Donald

Trump turned to his top aides and asked an unsettling question: With a fast unraveling Venezuela threatening regional security, why can’t the U.S. just simply invade the troubled country?

The suggestion stunned those present at the meeting, including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H.R. McMaster, both of whom have since left the administration. This account of the previously undisclosed conversation comes from a senior administration official familiar with what was said.

In an exchange that lasted around five minutes, McMaster and others took turns explaining to Trump how military action could backfire and risk losing hard-won support among Latin American governments to punish President Nicolas Maduro for taking Venezuela down the path of dictatorship, according to the official. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

But Trump pushed back. Although he gave no indication he was about to order up military plans, he pointed to what he considered past cases of successful gunboat diplomacy in the region, according to the official, like the invasions of Panama and Grenada in the 1980s.

The idea, despite his aides’ best attempts to shoot it down, would nonetheless persist in the president’s head.

The next day, Aug. 11, Trump alarmed friends and foes alike with talk of a “military option” to remove Maduro from power. The public remarks were initially dismissed in U.S. policy circles as the sort of martial bluster people have come to expect from the reality TV star turned commander in chief.

But shortly afterward, he raised the issue with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, according to the U.S. official. Two high-ranking Colombian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid antagonizing Trump confirmed the report.

Then in September, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump discussed it again, this time at greater length, in a private dinner with leaders from four Latin American allies that included Santos, the same three people said and Politico reported in February.

The U.S. official said Trump was specifically briefed not to raise the issue and told it wouldn’t play well, but the first thing the president said at the dinner was, “My staff told me not to say this.” Trump then went around asking each leader if they were sure they didn’t want a military solution, according to the official, who added that each leader told Trump in clear terms they were sure.

Eventually, McMaster would pull aside the president and walk him through the dangers of an invasion, the official said.

Taken together, the behind-the-scenes talks, the extent and details of which have not been previously reported, highlight how Venezuela’s political and economic crisis has

received top attention under Trump in a way that was unimaginable in the Obama administration. But critics say it also underscores how his “America First” foreign policy at times can seem outright reckless, providing ammunition to America’s adversaries.

The White House declined to comment on the private conversations. But a National Security Council spokesman reiterated that the U.S. will consider all options at its disposal to help restore Venezuela’s democracy and bring stability. Under Trump’s leadership, the U.S., Canada and European Union have levied sanctions on dozens of top Venezuelan officials, including Maduro himself, over allegations of corruption, drug trafficking and human rights abuses. The U.S. has also distributed more than \$30 million to help Venezuela’s neighbors absorb an influx of more than 1 million migrants who have fled the country.

For Maduro, who has long claimed that the U.S. has military designs on Venezuela and its vast oil reserves, Trump’s bellicose talk provided the unpopular leader with an immediate if short-lived boost as he was trying to escape blame for widespread food shortages and hyperinflation. Within days of the president’s talk of a military option, Maduro filled the streets of Caracas with loyalists to condemn “Emperor” Trump’s belligerence, ordered up nationwide military exercises and threatened with arrest opponents he said were plotting his overthrow with the U.S.

“Mind your own business and solve your own problems, Mr. Trump!” thundered Nicolas Maduro, the president’s son, at the government-stacked constituent assembly. “If Venezuela were attacked, the rifles will arrive in New York, Mr. Trump,” the younger Maduro said. “We will take the White House.”

Even some of the staunchest U.S. allies were begrudgingly forced to side with Maduro in condemning Trump’s saber rattling. Santos, a big backer of U.S. attempts to isolate Maduro, said an invasion would have zero support in the region. The Mercosur trade bloc, which includes Brazil and Argentina, issued a statement saying “the only acceptable means of promoting democracy are dialogue and diplomacy” and repudiating “any option that implies the use of force.”

But among Venezuela’s beleaguered opposition movement, hostility to the idea of a military intervention has slowly eased.

A few weeks after Trump’s public comments, Harvard economics professor Ricardo Hausmann, a former Venezuelan planning minister, wrote a syndicated column titled “D Day Venezuela,” in which he called for a “coalition of the willing” made up of regional powers and the U.S. to step in and support militarily a government appointed by the opposition-led national assembly.

Mark Feierstein, who oversaw Latin America on the National Security Council during the Obama administration,

said that strident U.S. action on Venezuela, however commendable, won’t loosen Maduro’s grip on power if it’s not accompanied by pressure from the streets. However, he thinks Venezuelans have largely been demoralized after a crackdown on protests last year triggered dozens of deaths, and the threat of more repression has forced dozens of opposition leaders into exile.

“People inside and outside the administration know they can ignore plenty of what Trump says,” Feierstein, who is now a senior adviser at the Albright Stonebridge Group, said of Trump’s talk of military invasion of Venezuela. “The concern is that it raised expectations among Venezuelans, many of whom are waiting for an external actor to save them.”

## **Trump Asked Advisers About Invading Venezuela In 2017**

By Jeremy Diamond

[CNN](#), July 4, 2018

President Donald Trump last August asked several top foreign policy advisers about the possibility of invading Venezuela during a meeting about diplomatic sanctions the US was enacting on the autocratic government, a senior administration official familiar with the comments said.

Trump’s aides, including then-national security adviser HR McMaster, vigorously urged him against the notion of a military invasion of Venezuela, warning him it could backfire and explaining that US allies in the region were firmly opposed to such drastic action. Taking military action against Venezuela would be a dramatic escalation of the US’s so-far solely diplomatic and sanctions-focused response to the political and economic crisis roiling the South American country.

Still, the official with knowledge of Trump’s private comments noted there was “no imminent plan for a military strike” and chalked the comments up to Trump thinking “out loud.”

Pence: Crisis in Venezuela threat to US, regional security

“The President says and thinks a lot of different things,” the official said. “He just thinks out loud.”

Trump’s private comments to his advisers were first reported by the Associated Press. They came a day before he said publicly – standing alongside then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley – that he was not taking “a military option” against Venezuela off the table.

Trump in the following month continued to press Latin American leaders about the possibility, including on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly when he dined with many of those leaders – all of whom said they did not want a US invasion of Venezuela.

Venezuela has been a key focus of the Trump administration's policy toward Latin America, with Trump taking numerous steps to ratchet up pressure on the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. The administration has enacted numerous sanctions and issued strongly worded statements urging the Venezuelan government to allow free and fair elections to take place.

What it's like in the 7 countries on Trump's travel ban list

Vice President Mike Pence has also met numerous times with Venezuelan opposition leaders and has issued stinging criticisms of the Venezuelan government during his recent trips to Latin America.

Trump's comments were not the first time he has raised the possibility of military action against another country. Before the cooling of tensions with North Korea in recent months, Trump deliberated with aides about the possibility of preventive strikes against the Pyongyang regime and in January sought to order the evacuation of US military dependents in South Korea – sounding alarms among the President's top national security aides who worried North Korea might interpret the move as wartime preparations.

Just as with his discussions of military action in Venezuela, Trump's aides dissuaded him from taking such brash action.

## **US Senator: Moscow Must Not Meddle In The 2018 Election**

[Associated Press](#), July 4, 2018

MOSCOW (AP) — Visiting U.S. senators on Wednesday urged Russia not to meddle in the U.S. midterm election in November if it wants to improve strained bilateral ties.

The senators were in Russia as part of a congressional visit taking place two weeks ahead of a summit between the nations' presidents in Helsinki.

Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, called for a "change in behavior" on the part of Moscow.

"The best way to demonstrate this as we head into the 2018 election is to show the American people and our congress and our administration that the Russians have no intention of messing or playing with the American election," Thune told The Associated Press in an interview.

Richard Shelby, a senator from Alabama who heads the delegation, brought up the topic of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

"I think it's a given in the United States, in both parties, that Russia tried to meddle and probably did meddle in the election," Shelby told the AP.

Senator Jerry Moran from Kansas said all Russian officials they spoke to denied that. "It was simply a denial on their part that it occurred."

Shelby added, however, that despite deep disagreements, the meeting was a useful step in improving ties.

"We also told them that even though our relationship is strained, it would be better for the world for us to be competitors, always, rather than adversaries. But we'll have to see what happens."

Russia-U.S. ties have been bitterly strained by the fighting in Ukraine, the Syrian war and allegations of election meddling.

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## **U.S. Softens North Korea Approach As Pompeo Prepares For More Nuclear Talks**

By David Brunnstrom

[Reuters](#), July 4, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Analysis: After Summit, Pompeo Wants Details From Kim**

By Eric Talmadge

[Associated Press](#), July 5, 2018

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to arrive in Pyongyang on Friday for his first visit since last month's summit in Singapore, and one of his biggest tasks will be to dispel growing skepticism over whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really intends to abandon his nuclear arsenal.

This will be the third trip to Pyongyang for Pompeo, President Donald Trump's point-man on the North. He met directly with Kim on both of his previous visits. So, with the handshakes and small talk now behind them, this could be where the rubber hits the road. Or where the Trump-Kim train starts to go off the rails.

Here's a look at why the stakes have gotten higher since the summit, what Washington's latest signals are and how Kim has been playing his cards.

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST?**

There's a reason for the concern Kim might not be as serious about his commitment to denuclearization as Trump has suggested in his post-summit tweets.

Recent media reports citing intelligence assessments suggest North Korea is continuing to build and improve the infrastructure for its nuclear and missile programs. That's not a violation of anything Kim committed to in Singapore, nor is it especially surprising Pyongyang would keep developing its assets right up until it specifically agrees to do otherwise.

But it highlights that the North didn't actually agree to do much of anything concrete in Singapore and that it now appears to be pushing the envelope of what it can continue to get away with.

To counter this slipperiness, the U.S. needs to get a detailed account of what the North's nuclear and missile programs consist of, what facilities it has and where they are. It then needs to get Pyongyang to agree to have monitors to verify that information and observe what is actually happening, or not happening, on the ground.

Once that is done, a timeline with specific steps and deadlines must be nailed down.

But it's not clear how hard Washington is ready to push.

#### WASHINGTON'S MANY MESSAGES

What's Washington's post-summit message? That depends on who's talking.

Trump this week tweeted his administration has been having "many good conversations" with North Korea over denuclearization, that "all of Asia is thrilled" by its decision not to test nuclear weapons or launch long-range missiles and that "If not for me, we would now be at War with North Korea!"

National security adviser John Bolton on Sunday said Pompeo will present Pyongyang with a plan to complete the dismantling of the North's nuclear and missile programs in one year. A couple of days later, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert walked that back.

Bolton has a reputation as a hard-liner, and as a man of high personal ambition, so his remarks could have been intended to turn up the heat not only on the North, but on Pompeo as well. At some point, however, the Trump administration is going to have to back up its optimistic tweets with something along those lines.

Meanwhile, the leaking of the intelligence assessments just ahead of Pompeo's trip raises another question. It may have been intended to let Pyongyang know it is being watched. But it could just as well be a message for the Trump administration from an intelligence community concerned by the president's own rosy assessments.

And Congress? It's considering a bill that would require Trump to submit any deals with Kim for its approval — not exactly a sign of confidence.

#### WHAT KIM'S REALLY UP TO

The bigger question than what Washington wants, however, is what Kim is willing to give.

So far, that hasn't been a whole lot.

Pyongyang's official position hasn't changed substantially since the New Year's address Kim used to kick off his regional diplomatic campaign — the county is shifting its focus to developing the national economy and updating its

foreign relations because it has successfully "perfected" its national nuclear forces.

Kim has vowed that "as a responsible, peace-loving nuclear power," North Korea will use its nuclear weapons only if "hostile forces of aggression violate its sovereignty and interests." In Singapore, he "reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Yes. But when?

Despite claims to the contrary, Kim's signature on the Singapore statement is a far cry from an explicit promise to unilaterally abandon his hard-won nuclear arsenal, which he has credited as being the very reason why Trump is willing to treat him as an equal and reconsider his "hostile policy" toward North Korea.

The fact is, Kim's game is more complex than just his dealings with Trump.

Though he has met with Trump once, Kim has had three summits with China's President Xi Jinping. Beijing has had a significant say in Kim's strategy with Washington and will have a big role in whatever future path the North may choose to pursue.

Kim has also held two summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that have opened the door to cultural exchanges and talk about big projects to improve the North's infrastructure and bolster trade in ways that had just a year ago been unthinkable because of Trump's sanctions-centric policy of "maximum pressure."

Pompeo may be able to wrest some meaningful steps toward denuclearization out of Kim this week. But, for Kim, neutering Trump's "maximum pressure" policy is the real name of the game.

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## How Trump Went From 'Fire And Fury' To Dismissing North Korean Nuclear Advances

By David E. Sanger

[New York Times](#), July 4, 2018

When the North Koreans were shooting off missile tests and detonating new, more powerful atomic bombs last year, President Trump responded with threats of "fire and fury" and ordered the military to come up with new, if highly risky, pre-emptive strike options.

But since the one-day summit meeting last month in Singapore, Mr. Trump has done an about-face, while the North's nuclear program has continued. "Many good conversations with North Korea-it is going well!" he wrote Tuesday morning on Twitter.

Even the recent revelations of seemingly modest North Korean progress on missile technology and the production of

nuclear fuel — including continued work on a new nuclear reactor that can produce plutonium — have not dimmed Mr. Trump's enthusiasm. He argues that they mean little compared to the new tone of conversations, and that even though North Korea has not disassembled a single weapon, his mission should be judged a success.

It is that jarring reversal of tone that has led Mr. Trump's critics to argue that he was taken in by Kim Jong-un, the North's 34-year-old leader.

Turning the enthusiasm of the meeting in Singapore into a concrete, verifiable agreement is now the job of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is leaving Washington early Thursday for North Korea. It will be his third trip there, but the first to flesh out a timetable and a common understanding of what the Singapore commitment to "work toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" really means.

Complicating the task is this: Mr. Pompeo, a former C.I.A. chief who knows the details of the North Korean program intimately and has solicited plans for how to accomplish his goals, must show that he can get the North Koreans to go far beyond the agreement his predecessor once-removed, John Kerry, achieved in negotiations with Iran. Mr. Trump has called that deal a "disaster" for years and pulled out of it two months ago.

Now, it looms over Mr. Pompeo's talks.

By engaging Mr. Trump in the process of "denuclearizing" the Korean Peninsula, Mr. Kim may be calculating that the president would not dare walk away — especially after Mr. Trump noted before the summit meeting that "everyone thinks" he should win a Nobel Peace Prize, before modestly adding, "but I would never say it."

Still, the test missile engine site that Mr. Trump told reporters was being dismantled still stands, satellite pictures show. And the C.I.A., among other agencies, has warned that the North's strategy may now be to build up abilities that can be traded away later, hoping to maneuver Mr. Trump into accepting the country as a de facto nuclear power, and settle for concessions on the size and reach of Mr. Kim's nuclear force.

Mr. Trump and his allies say that is nonsense; sanctions remain and Mr. Trump has not flinched from the goal of "complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization."

"There's not any starry-eyed feeling among the group doing this," John R. Bolton, the national security adviser, insisted Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation," saying that most of the major steps toward denuclearization could be taken in a year. In private, Trump administration officials say, Mr. Bolton's view is the same as it was before he joined the administration: that the North Koreans will never entirely give up their program.

The big question is whether Mr. Kim is truly ready to change course or playing for time with Mr. Trump — as his father and grandfather did with the past four presidents.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump is in sales mode.

Frustrated by the series of reports that the North is chugging forward, despite its "denuclearization" pledge, Mr. Trump boasted in a tweet on Tuesday that there had been "no Rocket Launches or Nuclear Testing in 8 months. All of Asia is thrilled. Only the Opposition Party, which includes the Fake News, is complaining."

Then, with a Trumpian flair, he added, "If not for me, we would now be at War with North Korea!"

Mr. Trump is at least partly right: There have been no missile or nuclear tests since November, a freeze that many, including some Democrats, said was a necessary first step. But a freeze and denuclearization are completely different things.

Mr. Kim retains all of his nuclear abilities, and thus his leverage. He can resume testing any time. Just a year ago, Rex W. Tillerson, then the secretary of state, called that position insufficient because it merely perpetuated an ability to strike that Mr. Trump had, until recently, characterized as intolerable.

But it also reveals, in perhaps the most critical national security crisis Mr. Trump faces, his tendency to conflate a good meeting with a good outcome. It is as if President John F. Kennedy, meeting with the Soviet Union's Nikita Khrushchev for the first time in Vienna in 1961, had declared the Cold War solved. The Cuban missile crisis broke open 16 months later.

Mr. Kim has already accomplished something, too. The heat has been turned down drastically, and the United States has, unilaterally, suspended military exercises with South Korea.

The Obama administration's Iran agreement shadows Mr. Trump's talks with the North.

The president regularly calls Iran a major nuclear threat, even though it no longer has enough fuel to make a single nuclear weapon. Under the 2015 agreement, it shipped 97 percent of its nuclear material out of the country. And it never possessed nuclear weapons.

Yet Mr. Trump pulled out after concluding that the United States gave away too much in return for an agreement that would gradually allow the Iranians to resume production around 2030.

The stark contrast between how Mr. Trump talks about Tehran, while insisting that the North is "no longer a nuclear threat," will become harder and harder to sustain if Mr. Pompeo cannot get Mr. Kim on a rapid denuclearization schedule.

And Mr. Pompeo will need to achieve an inspection regime that provides assurance — not only to intelligence agencies but also to the public in South Korea, Japan and the

United States — that the North is not hiding weapons, missiles or production facilities. The C.I.A. and the Defense Intelligence Agency believe that, today, it is hiding all three. So far, Mr. Pompeo has said nothing about the details he intends to present, and Mr. Bolton suggested that stories about new intelligence on the North's improving its nuclear abilities only imperiled the diplomatic process. As a television commentator and columnist, Mr. Bolton often repeated similar reports when it came to building his case about how to deal with Pyongyang and Tehran.

One thing is clear, however: The Trump administration has not uttered the phrase “complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization” in weeks, and Mr. Pompeo has also softened his tone. Some administration officials say that South Korea urged getting rid of the everything-must-be-dismantled-immediately approach. And South Korean officials say that while Mr. Kim might not surrender his entire program anytime soon, he might dismantle parts of it, reducing his readiness to go to war.

“Perhaps the biggest diplomatic problem the U.S. will face, if we can get North Korea to agree to fully denuclearize, will be the timing of that denuclearization and how we verify the component steps,” William Perry, the former defense secretary under President Bill Clinton, wrote this week in *Politico Magazine*.

Mr. Perry, who negotiated repeatedly with the North, cautioned that “these steps will be complex, will take many months, if not years, and will require intrusive verification procedures.”

“But the U.S. has negotiated agreements equally difficult with the Soviet Union, so we do have a positive precedent,” he wrote.

## **For The US, A Frustrating History Of Recovering Human Remains In North Korea**

By Dan Lamothe And Paul Sonne

[Washington Post](#), July 4, 2018

The white marble headstone in Arlington National Cemetery memorializes Victor I. Gallerani, sergeant in the U.S. Army in Korea, recipient of a Purple Heart.

But no one is in the grave below.

The dates on the headstone are at least partly correct. Gallerani was indeed born on Jan. 10, 1931. Whether he died on Nov. 28, 1950, is a mystery his family has wanted to solve for decades. No trace of him ever came home.

Gallerani's family is one of thousands hoping the U.S. government will soon recover and identify the remains of their loved ones from North Korea, after wondering for decades what exactly happened on the long-ago battlefields of the Korean War.

“I know how much my parents would have wanted to know,” Gallerani's sister, Jean Waite, said of the big brother

she bid goodbye to when she was 11. “To have it happen while I'm still alive to see it — I would be very happy about that.”

At their historic summit last month, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to recovering more American remains, including the “immediate repatriation of those already identified.” Their statement raised hopes that as many as 200 sets believed to be ready for transfer could be collected in coming days and possibly more in the near future.

But the up-and-down nature of past efforts suggests the process could be fraught with pitfalls, including a mixed record of cooperation from the North Koreans. Any successful repatriation also will face the laborious identification process that has dragged on for years with the remains already in U.S. possession.

“They use remains as bait,” Danny Russel, a career diplomat who focused on North Korea for both the State Department and White House during the Obama administration, said of the North Koreans. “They use them to sort of chum the water.”

The Pentagon estimates nearly 7,700 U.S. troops are unaccounted for from the conflict, including 5,300 believed to have been killed north of the 38th parallel, which marks the border between the two Koreas.

The U.S. military has not recovered remains directly from North Korean officials since 2005, when the administration of George W. Bush stopped the program as tensions between Washington and Pyongyang rose.

Trump told a crowd of supporters on June 20 that 200 human remains had already “been sent back.” But U.S. military officials said afterward that was not the case.

Repatriation also has been complicated by money. The United States has sent North Korea \$22 million since 1990 as it recovered an estimated 629 sets of remains, said Chuck Prichard, a U.S. military spokesman. The Pentagon says it reimburses North Korea for the costs of recovery but does not pay for the remains themselves. Critics see that as akin to a fig leaf, with the North Koreans running up the tab to help pay for their nuclear program.

“This is a little bit like your cable bill or your airline ticket,” Russel said. “There's just this infinite number of surcharges and obscurely worded fees that drive up the price. I think there is essentially no correlation between what the North Koreans are charging and any service that they are providing.”

A State Department spokesman, Justin Higgins, said he could not yet address whether the United States expects to recover all 200 sets of remains that are believed to be ready for transfer or whether it would pay North Korea for handling them. The U.S. military recently disclosed it has sent 100 “temporary transit cases” to the border between the two

Koreans “to receive and transport remains in a dignified manner.”

Once recovered, remains are usually transported to a laboratory at Hawaii’s Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam run by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. It focuses on recovering prisoners of war and U.S. troops listed as missing in action and employs historians and scientists to help with identification.

DNA testing and another analysis will be applied to not only sort through the human remains, but also to determine whether animal bones have been mixed in — which the North Koreans have been accused of deliberately including in the past.

In the absence of recovery efforts involving the U.S. military, former New Mexico governor Bill Richardson visited North Korea in 2007 with approval from Bush, recovering the remains of six U.S. service members. The North Koreans extended an offer to restart the repatriation program, Richardson said, but it fell flat when it became apparent Pyongyang’s weapons programs were growing.

In 2011, the United States and North Korea again began negotiating parameters under which U.S. military teams could travel alongside North Korean representatives to sites at the Chosin Reservoir and Unsan County, where the U.S. military suffered significant fatalities after China entered the war. The Pentagon announced the plan in January 2012 but ultimately scuttled the mission after more ominous suggestions from North Korea about the safety of U.S. troops involved, Russel said.

In 2016, the Richardson Center for Global Engagement, run by the former governor, sent another team to North Korea to bring home Otto Warmbier, the American college student who was arrested and accused of attempting to steal a political poster. Richardson said the plan included recovering Warmbier, who died in Ohio last year after North Korea returned him with severe brain damage, along with several sets of human remains.

In an attempt to keep the trip low-profile, Richardson stayed behind and sent the center’s vice president, Mickey Bergman. The group returned to the United States in September 2016 with an offer from North Korea to repatriate the remains of about 200 deceased service members, Bergman said.

The timing was complicated. The Obama administration continued to be “quite wary of taking the North Korean bait on some sort of diversionary tactic,” as Washington prioritized the threat of Pyongyang building up its nuclear weapons program, Russel said.

Then Trump won the presidency that November. Bergman said his group floated another proposal in which the president-elect would send a Trump Organization plane to the Korean Peninsula to recover remains before he took office. But the plan never got traction.

“We tried. It’s not that he said, ‘No,’ “ Bergman said. “We just couldn’t get it in front of him. And then the inauguration happened, and we were waiting to see what happened.”

That has been little consolation to Rick Downes, whose father, Hal, has been listed as missing in action since 1952, when his B-26 Invader went down northwest of Pyongyang. Rick Downes, who was 3 at the time of his father’s disappearance, traveled with Bergman to North Korea and said it was a “very frustrating, angry moment” when the Obama administration informed him afterward it would not pursue the remains because of the other considerations.

“They may have ended up asking for more conditions, and it wouldn’t have happened,” said Downes, who is president of a nonprofit group representing military families waiting to recover remains. “But we never got the chance to go any further because the White House at that time just kiboshed the whole thing.”

Now, relatives of unrecovered service members are hopeful that repatriation will resume under Trump and give the stories of their loved ones a proper ending.

Sgt. Gallerani had signaled his worry in his last letter, days before he went missing, when he described how the Chinese military had entered the conflict and was putting up “a hell of a fight.”

“I’ll be home as soon as we get rid of those damn China reds,” he promised.

Waite remembers how she would stay up late with her parents and watch the names of American prisoners of war scroll across the television, hoping to see her brother’s. Once, someone contacted her parents claiming to have information, but it turned out to be a scam.

The family decided to have a memorial service after the U.S. military issued a “presumptive finding of death” in 1953. With only his picture on the altar at the church, and no casket, closure has proved elusive.

“My mother went to her grave thinking he was probably alive somewhere,” Waite said. “You just never give up hope until you know.”

Waite’s brother established a gravesite at Arlington Cemetery, where Victor’s remains will be interred if they are ever found and identified.

The possibility of more remains being repatriated has raised cautious hope.

Among them, Waite still dares to think, could be those of the dashing older brother she hugged goodbye in another century, who would walk her to the drugstore and buy her Hoodsie ice cream cups so she could add to her collection of movie star pictures on their tops.

“It made us all just very cognizant of how awful it is to go through life wondering where a member of your family is,” Waite said. “It’s always there in the back of your mind.”

## China Electronic Spying Threat

By Bill Gertz

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' recent visit to China highlighted the security dangers posed by sophisticated Chinese electronic spying in the capital of Beijing.

Security precautions for those traveling with the defense secretary were extremely tight during his June 26-28 visit.

To prevent Chinese spying through cellphones or laptop computers, the 10 journalists traveling aboard the secretary's Air Force E-4B nuclear command plane, a militarized Boeing 747, were prohibited from bringing any electronic devices that were taken off the aircraft during the two-day visit back onto the plane. Anything that used wireless connectivity was deemed potentially vulnerable to Chinese hacking.

Security officials were concerned that China's formidable electronic spies would plant viruses or other malware onto the cellphones and laptops, allowing remote spying aboard the aircraft.

The concerns were magnified because the E-4B is one of the more sensitive aircraft in the military's inventory. The jets — four are currently deployed — are critical elements of nuclear command and control systems used by commanders to communicate with their forces during a nuclear crisis or conflict.

Gaining access to the electronics or communications of the command plane could allow the Chinese military to block or disrupt nuclear commands, or spy on nuclear command-and-control methods.

The Chinese are known to be targeting the military's nuclear command and control networks for both intelligence-gathering and future cyberwarfare attacks. One novel electronic spying tactic is to secretly plant listening devices inside electronic key cards used to open hotel room doors.

Security officials traveling with Mr. Mattis required everyone who was issued hotel key cards in Beijing to leave all of them behind before boarding the aircraft on the way out of Beijing.

Chinese intelligence and security organs employ up to 15,000 electronic spies to spy on foreigners in China. High-profile visits by foreign officials like Mr. Mattis are high-priority intelligence targets for the Chinese, who in addition to electronic spying also engage in large-scale human surveillance.

China's main electronic spy agencies are the civilian Ministry of State Security (MSS) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Strategic Support Force, a relatively new agency that combined several PLA military spy units, including the human spying service called 2PLA and the cyberspy group 3PLA. Together, the MSS and Strategic Support Force

conduct aggressive high-technology intelligence-gathering both in China and abroad.

Another PLA unit known as 4PLA specializes in electronic countermeasures and radar intelligence. As reported in this space last year, the 4PLA operates an entire Beijing hotel called the Seasons Hotel for its operations.

The tight security controls are a reflection of the new electronic spying environment and China's formidable skills at stealing secrets and other valuable information through foreigners' electronic devices.

Chinese intelligence continues to exploit its hack of some 21 million federal records at the U.S. executive branch's Office of Personnel Management several years ago. The OPM cyberattack compromised sensitive personal information on millions of Americans who hold security clearances.

China also hacked the health care provider Anthem and stole some 78 million records, including those of government officials.

U.S. intelligence officials believe the Chinese are using the stolen data for high-technology, artificial-intelligence-driven spying operations.

Reporters and officials who were part of the official delegation traveling with Mr. Mattis were forced to bring "burner" cellphones for travel in China. The phones were used inside China and discarded before the delegation left the country.

Any laptop computers taken by reporters off the plane had to be abandoned in China or handed off to colleagues at local news bureaus. That process worked for those covering the secretary's first visit to China for The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

Reporters without local bureaus in Beijing had to improvise or go without cellphone connectivity completely.

One reporter brought two laptops — one for use on stops before and after China and one for use solely in China. The laptop had to be dropped off at the reporter's news bureau at the end of the trip.

However, getting the computer back to the United States could prove difficult since China prohibits mailing laptops over concerns about the fire risks posed by certain batteries in shipments.

Your Inside the Ring columnist took the risky step of renting a Chinese laptop — a model built by China's Lenovo — through a hotel concierge. Lenovo computers are banned within the Pentagon over security concerns that the Chinese could use hardware contained in the laptops to send information back to China.

The first problem using the rented computer was deciphering the Chinese language. A hotel assistant helped by loading an English-language Yahoo webpage on the computer browser. From the Yahoo site, a temporary email was created for the visit and used to file stories.

One early discovery for recent visitors to Beijing was that China remains a tightly controlled information desert. Social media giants Facebook and Twitter are banned and unavailable there, as is access to Google's signature search engine, which is blocked on most Chinese web browsers most of the time.

A radio correspondent traveling with Mr. Mattis was able to send audio files from Beijing using one of several desktop computers located in the hotel business center. The problem for the reporter was that the business center was not open 24 hours a day.

Asked about the extreme electronic precautions, a senior defense official said: "Welcome to the new security environment."

#### WHITE HOUSE ON CHINESE SPYING

The White House recently published a report on Chinese economic aggression against the United States that contains new details on Beijing's spy operations.

The report, "How China's Economic Aggression Threatens the Technologies and Intellectual Property of the United States and the World," states that China's Ministry of State Security employs around 40,000 intelligence officers overseas and more than 50,000 spies inside China. That 90,000 MSS spying cadre is bolstered by "tens of thousands" of Chinese military spies, the report said.

According to the report, a special Pentagon unit called the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, or DIUx, recently concluded that "the scale of the [Chinese economic] espionage continues to increase."

The large-scale, state-sponsored technology theft by China has overwhelmed American law enforcement agencies.

"In part, this is because U.S. companies may be unaware of theft by an insider before it is too late," the report said. "In part, this is because some U.S. companies are unwilling to report the theft for fear of the adverse consequences that such a disclosure could entail. Even when victims report, the Chinese government is typically unwilling to cooperate, making a successful cross-border investigation difficult."

#### INTEL BILL ON RUSSIAN MEDDLING

The House intelligence authorization bill for fiscal 2019 contains provisions requiring U.S. intelligence agencies to better monitor and counter election-influence operations by Russia.

The bill that passed the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence this week calls for an intelligence report on Russian election meddling over the past three years, and on anticipated operations as well as U.S. counterintelligence efforts against those operations.

The report is a recognition that the Obama administration did little or nothing to counter the Russian influence campaign during the 2016 presidential election,

despite intelligence agencies knowing about the secret program since 2015. The intelligence analysis report outlined in the legislation would summarize significant influence campaigns by Russian intelligence and the methods used in carrying them out.

Another section of the intelligence bill would require federal security and intelligence agencies to post on a public website "an advisory report on foreign counterintelligence and cybersecurity threats to election campaigns for federal offices."

Another provision would require spy agencies to report to Congress on the national security risks posed by foreign investment in the United States. The measure is aimed at identifying extensive Chinese investment in the United States that Beijing is using to gain access to advanced technology.

Another section of the bill would require the creation of an Energy Infrastructure Security Center within the Energy Department to better deal with cyber and other threats to the electric grid and other critical energy infrastructure.

### **Tiananmen Square Hero Challenges China-backed Institutes With Provocative 30-year Memorial**

By Connor Foorde

[Washington Times](#), July 4, 2018

As a young student, Wang Dan famously took a stand against China's communist rulers in the chaos of Tiananmen Square. Three decades later, he is challenging a key outpost of the Beijing regime in the West.

In a campaign tied to the 30-year anniversary of the democracy rallies in central Beijing, Mr. Wang and a cohort of political activists are asking the Confucius Institute, the China-funded cultural outreach network with more than 100 locations in the U.S., to participate in a forum, "1989 pro-democracy movement and its suppression."

The 49-year-old democracy activist does not expect the institute to accept the invitation.

"There's two possibilities," a stern-looking Mr. Wang said in an interview while sipping a Frappuccino at a downtown D.C. Starbucks. "One, they just ignore it. Another possibility is that maybe they will humbly reply, 'OK, we welcome you, but we already have a full schedule and cannot move space around for you.'"

In addition to putting the spotlight on the lack of civil liberties in his homeland, Mr. Wang's gambit is designed to play up what critics say are contradictions and controversies surrounding the Confucius Institute.

Congress has held hearings on the cultural work the institute says it is carrying out, noting its links to U.S. colleges such as George Washington University and the University of Maryland, and the teaching and educational materials supplied by the Communist Party-run government.

Some even suspect that the institute is an extension of Beijing's intelligence service and is used as a way to keep tabs on Chinese students in the U.S. and other countries.

A top official of the U.S. network said the political criticisms are unfounded and that Mr. Wang's proposed project does not fit with the Confucius Institute's mission.

"Dr. Wang's credential and topic are not related to Confucius Institute's mission and curriculum on Chinese language. I'm afraid Dr. Wang might completely misunderstand what Confucius Institutes are," Gao Qing, executive director of the Washington-based Confucius Institute U.S. Center, said in an email.

Mr. Wang, who recently joined fellow exiled dissidents to found the Washington-based Dialogue China, said the think tank and the offer to the Confucius Institute were meant to publicize dissenting perspectives on China that have trouble being heard in the U.S.

"One of the reasons I came back to the U.S. and started this think tank is that I wanted to bring back the voice of the dissident group because, of course, our view of China is relevant," Mr. Wang said.

#### Unequal debate

With the rise of China as an economic superpower and strategic rival to the United States, Mr. Wang said, the debate over the nature of the Chinese government and its ultimate intentions has been dangerously lopsided.

"In my opinion, for the past 20 years there has been no balance on the opinion of China," he said. "Now we all know that is wrong, so we want to do something right."

The Confucius Institute is organized by a nonprofit group that its founders say aims to promote Chinese language study, cultural education and academic exchanges between China and the U.S. As of 2014, the Confucius Institute had over 400 branches around the globe.

Since its inception in 2004, the institute has been a magnet for controversy.

Sen. Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, and Sen. Tom Cotton, Arkansas Republican, have drafted legislation that would require the cultural institution to disclose all donations from foreign sources and to formally register as a foreign agent.

"Foreign agent" is an appropriate label for the Confucius Institute, Mr. Wang said.

"Of course, it is not only a so-called cultural institute. It is actually a foreign agent," he said. "They have done a lot of things for the purposes of the Communist Party, and that is what they are doing now."

He accused the institute of trying to influence young people to promote the ideology of the Communist Party and of stifling conversation on topics that the Chinese government deems sensitive.

"This is not an educational problem; it is a political problem. The whole American government and society needs to be more alert of these dangers," he said.

Rep. Michael T. McCaul, Texas Republican, has urged his state's public universities to cut ties with the program. He called it "a threat to our nation's security by serving as a platform for China's intelligence collection and political agenda."

Mr. Wang, though, said that closing all U.S. branches of the Confucius Institute would be difficult as a practical matter.

"If we cannot close them, we must ask them to improve," he said.

Mr. Wang was one of the most prominent student leaders of the Tiananmen Square protests. That role landed him on the government's list of most-wanted counterrevolutionaries.

He spent four years in prison for his involvement in the protests. He was arrested again in 1995 on charges of plotting to overthrow the government and was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

He was released three years later and was allowed to seek medical treatment in the U.S.

Mr. Wang eventually earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. at Harvard University while continuing to be an outspoken voice for democracy in his homeland.